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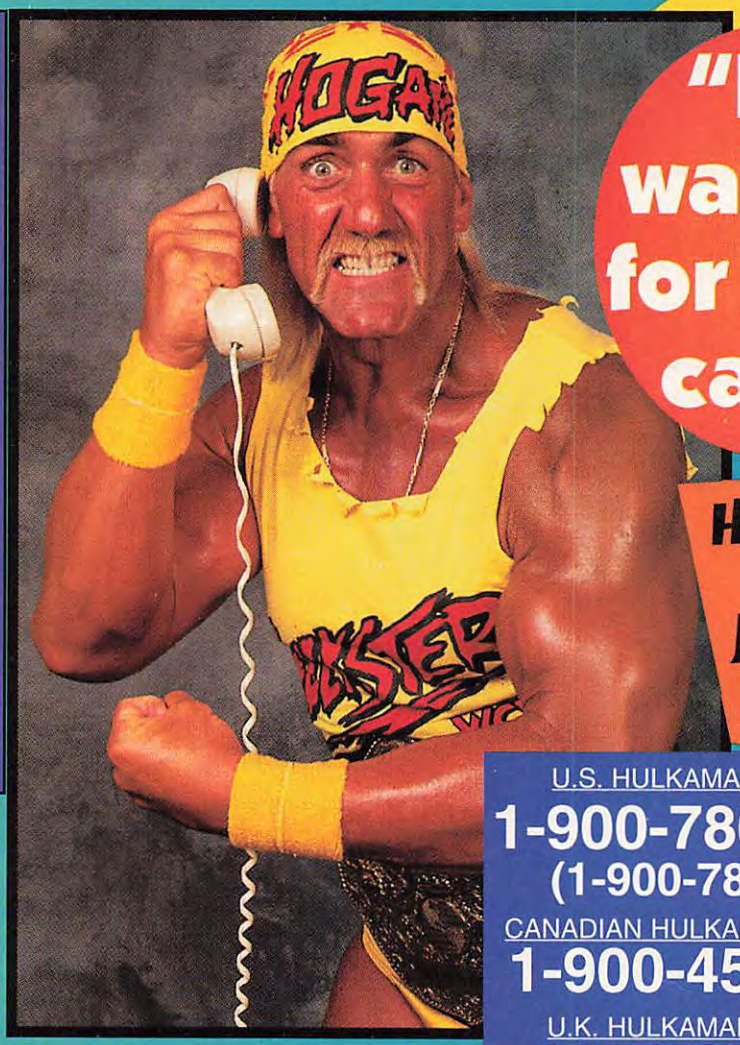

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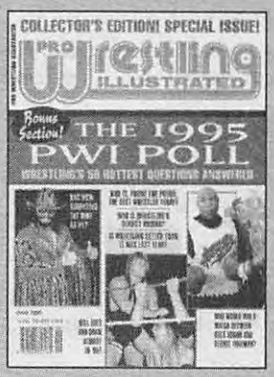
PWI POLL

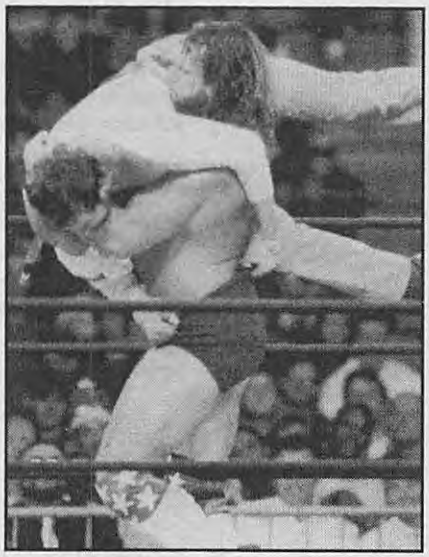


The June 1995 issue of ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** *featured our annual "**PWI Poll.**" We posed 50 wrestling questions to 125 different experts and tabulated the results for our readers. Some of those results were a little surprising, but they provided a unique view of what those involved in wrestling think about the sport.*

*"I found the poll results to be real interesting," said "**PWI Hotline**" caller Nina Latcher, of Jacksonville, Florida. "It's always entertaining to read what people think of themselves. I really can't believe so many people still say Jim Cornette is wrestling's best manager, though."*

"I agree wholeheartedly that Madison Square Garden is the best arena," wrote Tonya Novak of New York City. "I bet most WWF fans think the Garden is the best place for a wrestler to win any championship!"

"I loved the section about the best moves in the sport," wrote Phil Slocum of Provo, Utah. "It shows just what moves are respected and feared."



WCW may have a talent roster full of well-known and popular wrestlers, like Hacksaw Duggan (above), but the WWF has stars like Owen Hart (right) who will make wrestling great in the next century, notes reader Jonathan Swichar.

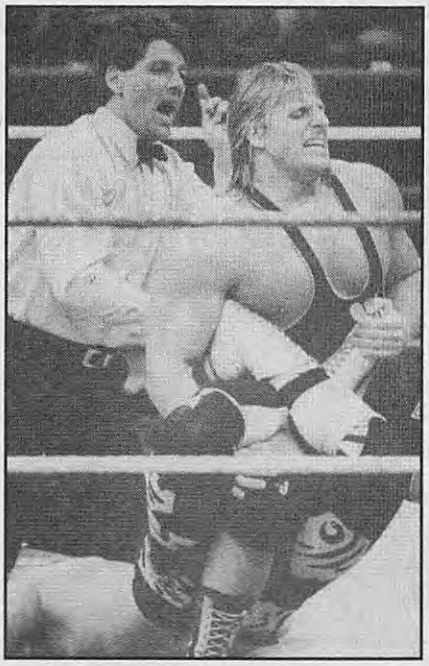
WAVE OF THE FUTURE

In the past few months, I have read countless letters stating that WCW has a superior talent roster, while the WWF has become nothing but a circus. Yes, WCW does have many well-known wrestlers, but this does not mean the talent is superior. A look at the current WCW ratings shows the names of Hacksaw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, and others. All of them were unable to consistently beat a lot of the WWF's "New Generation" stars when they were last in that federation. However, upon entering WCW, all of these wrestlers either instantly won titles or became top contenders.

Yes, the WWF might flaunt some wrestlers that critics say represent what is wrong with wrestling, but the WWF also has wrestlers who will be the stars of tomorrow. Wrestlers like Diesel, Jeff Jarrett, The Kid, and Owen Hart will take the sport into the 21st century. One can only imagine how well the "New Generation" of WWF stars will fare in the future.

Fans, keep rooting for the seniors in WCW, but when they're gone, the WWF will continue to present the best wrestlers, and WCW will be in trouble.

JONATHAN SWICHAR
Philadelphia



FOGGY VIEW

We've sent you The Beatles, lent you our Royal Family, and amused you with Hugh Grant, and what do the British wrestling fans get in return? Two or three tours a year from the

WWF and WCW. Sorry, people, I didn't pay 20 pounds (that's about $35, if you've mislaid your calculator) to see good ol' Jeff Jarrett chase a three-foot clown around the ring, but that's what I got.

Do you realize that I have never seen Sabu execute a moonsault or 911 choke-slam anyone? More importantly, I've never seen Jerry Lawler actually wrestle, though I have seen him run away a lot. There is so much that we are missing out on here in England. No ECW, USWA, or Smoky Mountain anywhere. Even the WWF and WCW are bloody hard to get without spending a lot of money on satellite dishes and subscription channels. Without *PWI*, I'd have no clue about what's going on.

If the independent federations are as good as you say they are, then they could really make an impact with wrestling fans who are starting to get a little disenchanted with the pulp the WWF and WCW are giving them.

CHRIS BROOKER
Somerset, England

SMASHING SUCCESS

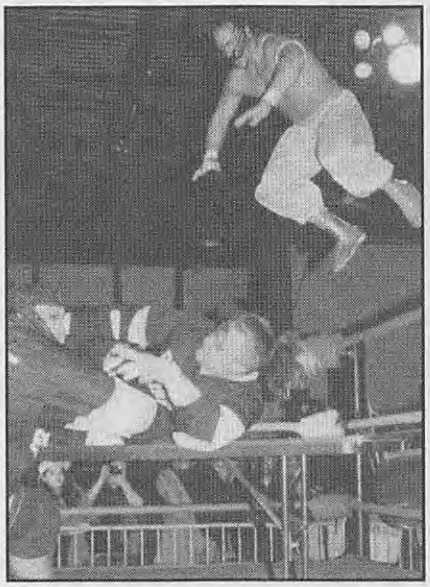
Hardcore fans witnessed the most violent ECW match ever when Public Enemy faced Paul E. Dangerously's maniacal duo of Sabu and Tasmaniac. The only way to win that match was to smash each opponent through a table. During the match, five tables met their untimely demise because of these four combatants. That had to surpass the all-time table-demolition record for one night. Sabu and Tas proved just how tough they are by beating one of the top tag teams in wrestling today.

After the match was over, Chris Benoit attacked Sabu, but Sabu powerbombed him off the table that was perched above the top rope. They hit Rocco Rock and smashed him through the table that *he* was lying on. Sabu's knocking two guys through a table at once was a great ending to a brutal match and an outstanding night of wrestling. The table match was truly symbolic of just how hardcore ECW can be. Long live ECW!

CRAIG PRENDERGAST
Philadelphia

MODEST PROPOSAL

I am a huge WWF fan, and I just wanted to comment on the WWF television debut of Tamara Murphy Fytch. All I have to say is *wow!* You want to talk about camera friendly? This woman is hot. My advice to the WWF is to hang on to her forever. I cannot wait to see her as a manager at ringside and on interviews. Just imagine Tamara on every WWF broadcast. Every male rulebreaking fan's dream! Naughty or nice, Tamara, will you marry me?!



ECW took violence to a new extreme when it sanctioned a table-smashing match between Sabu and Tasmaniac and Public Enemy, says reader Craig Prendergast.

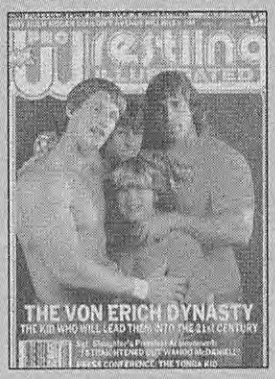
MARK MORRONE
Midlothian, IL

BROKEN PROMISES

I am disgusted with the former Guardian Angel's recent actions and identity crisis. I don't really care about his defection to the rulebreakers' camp; that doesn't bother me. What does is

(continued on page 50)

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the August 1985 issue was a portrait of Mike, Kerry, Kevin, and Chris Von Erich, who were all part of the most wrestling famous family to ever come out of Texas. The article detailed how Chris, the youngest brother in the clan, would lead the Von Erichs into the 21st century. So much was expected from Chris and all the other Von Erichs. Perhaps it was too much pressure for them to take. Sadly, all but Kevin have since died.

The centerfold offered an up-close view of one of the most popular tag teams in wrestling, The Rock 'n' Roll Express. At that time, Rick Morton and Robert Gibson had only been teaming for about two years, but they had already captured the Mid-South tag team title several times. Manager Jim Cornette and his various teams were just beginning to cause problems for them. The Rock 'n' Rolls are still going strong today as the Smoky Mountain Wrestling tag team champions.

Elsewhere in the magazine: WWF World champ Hulk Hogan was battling with Brutus Beefcake; he was trying to avenge Beefcake's beating of Hillbilly Jim, and Beefcake almost won Hogan's WWF World title several times ... The Tonga Kid talked about his future at Pro Wrestling USA in "Press Conference"...

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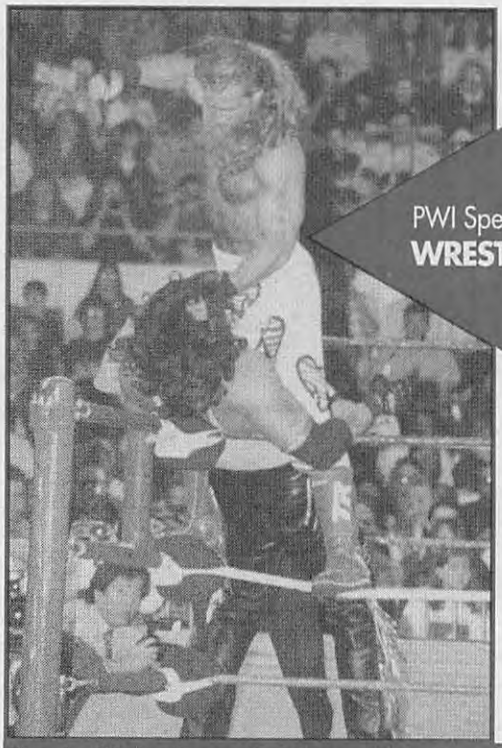
RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter



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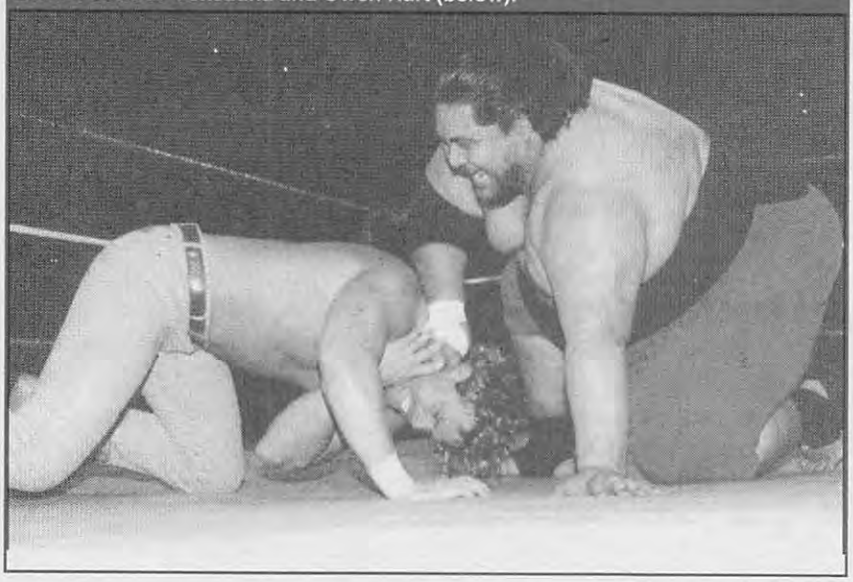
PWI Special! 20 Pages of
WRESTLEMANIA XI
Coverage

Diesel withstands an all-out assault by Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania XI in Hartford, Connecticut (above). Michaels might well have won the WWF World title had his bodyguard, Sid Vicious, not tried to interfere on his behalf. WWF World tag team champion The Smokin' Gunns, weren't as lucky as Diesel, though. They lost the belts to Yokozuna and Owen Hart (below).



DIESEL SUCCESSFULLY AND controversially defended his WWF World title against **Shawn Michaels**, and former NFL standout **Lawrence Taylor** scored one of the biggest upsets in wrestling history when he pinned **Bam Bam Bigelow**, in the co-main events of WrestleMania XI at the Hartford Civic Center.

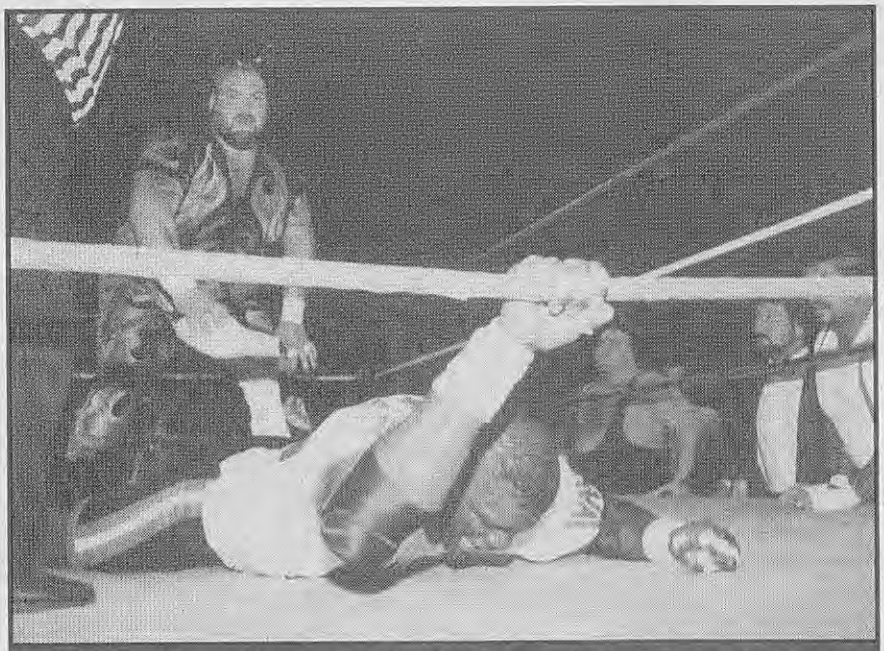
One day after April Fool's Day, Taylor made a fool of Bigelow by beating the super heavyweight at 11:42 of their much-publicized confrontation. Nobody gave LT much of a shot, but the former All-Pro linebacker showed incredible athleticism and surprising skill by using a flying forearm smash to stun Bigelow for the pin.

The loss did not sit well with **Ted DiBiase**, Bigelow's manager. As Bigelow returned to the dressing room, the "Million-Dollar Man" followed him with these taunting words: "You embarrassed yourself, you embarrassed me, and you embarrassed the Corporation. I can't believe it! A *football player* beat you!"

Backed by six NFL standouts, Taylor wrestled well and impressively executed several maneuvers, including bodyslams, suplexes, and a variation of the "jackknife" Diesel made famous.

Another somewhat surprising result was Diesel's victory over Michaels. Although Diesel is the World champion, Michaels is generally considered the better wrestler. And the "Heartbreak Kid" looked like a sure winner when Diesel had his shoulder rammed into a ringpost.

But Diesel fought back and got an incredible break when referee **Earl Hebner** twisted his ankle outside the ring while trying to fend off interference by **Sid Vicious**. Michaels had Diesel covered for at least 10 seconds after delivering a superkick, but Hebner recovered in time to count only the final two.



Bam Bam Bigelow, perhaps overwhelmed by the magnitude of the event, was underwhelming in his performance against Lawrence Taylor. Taylor's WrestleMania victory could have been the greatest upset ever!

against **Roger Clemens.** Jordan wouldn't have been able to get a ball out of the infield. Taylor may have scored the greatest upset in wrestling history!

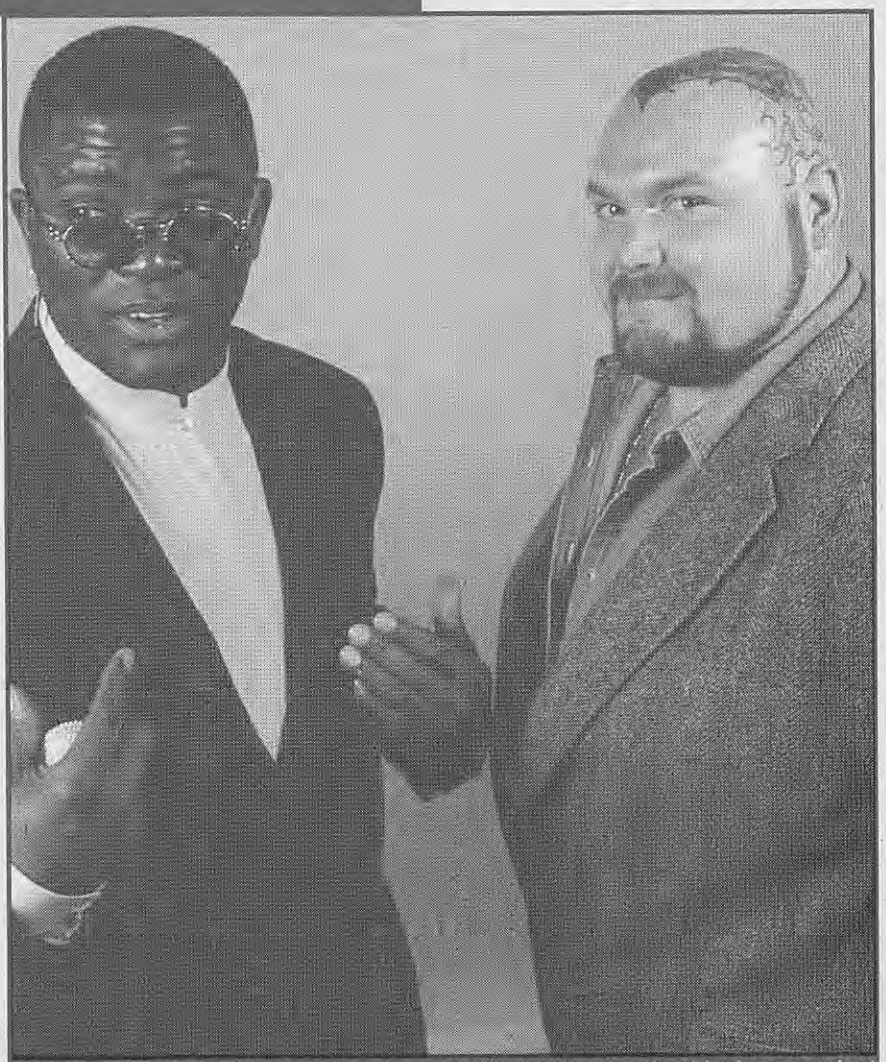
Two weeks before WrestleMania, I almost had a **Bigelow-Taylor** match in my portable photo studio! The two were in Philadelphia for a press conference at the CoreStates Spectrum's "Ovations" nightclub. I was able to convince them to let me take a shot or two and was hoping to get them to stand nose-to-nose. There they were, barely acknowledging each other's presence, when Bigelow started running off his mouth in a very nasty way.

(continued on page 56)

With luck on his side, Diesel caught Michaels with a couple of boots to the face, then "jackknifed" him for the pin at 20:40.

In other WrestleMania XI action: **Lex Luger** & **"British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith** beat **Jacob** & **Eli Blu** when Smith pinned Jacob at 6:37 ... **Razor Ramon** beat Intercontinental champion **Jeff Jarrett** by disqualification at 13:29 when **The Roadie** interfered ... **The Undertaker** pinned **King Kong Bundy** at the 6:38 mark ... **Owen Hart** & **Yokozuna** won the WWF tag team belts from **The Smokin' Gunns** when Yokozuna used a "banzai" crush, setting up a pin for Hart, who scored the three-count over **Billy Gunn** at 9:41 ... **Bret Hart** beat **Bob Backlund** in an "I Quit" match, when Backlund submitted to Hart's cross-face chicken wing.

For me, the lingering memory of WrestleMania XI will be the performance of Taylor. For him to succeed against a world-class talent like Bigelow in his wrestling debut would be about the same as **Michael Jordan** walking onto a baseball field and going 4-for-4



Bam Bam Bigelow snickers as he tries to decide whether he should take a punch at Lawrence Taylor, while Taylor implores Bill Apter to take his picture. Apter nearly saw these two go at it in his portable studio.

from the desk of...

Stuart M. Saks

People talk about banning steel cage matches, ladder matches, barbed-wire matches, baseball bat matches, etc. I can live with those brutal exhibitions of raw violence. The match I want to see jettisoned from the sport is the retirement match.

It really doesn't exist. Because, in the world of professional sports, retirement doesn't exist.

What do the following sports stars all have in common? George Foreman. Guy Lafleur. Michael Jordan. Bryan Trottier. Alexis Arguello. Sugar Ray Leonard. Bjorn Borg.

They are all present or future hall of famers in their respective sports. And, they all came out of retirement to resume their careers. Why, just before I sat down to write, I heard a radio report that Dave Cowens was contemplating a return to the NBA. It would mark the second time he has retired from retirement. He's 46.

As ancient as that sounds, Ric Flair is the same age as Cowens and while he's older than most of professional wrestling's active competitors, he's still a lot better than most of professional wrestling's active competitors. It's a known fact that most wrestlers don't even hit their primes until their early- to mid-30s. In Flair's case, he began his prime early and never really lost it. True, he could not beat Hogan. But that, in my opinion, was just one of those cases in sports where he did not match up well with his opponent. Joe Frazier was a superb heavyweight in his day, yet if you judged him solely on his two fights against George Foreman, he looked like nothing more than a four-round prelim bum.

At the time Flair began his embarrassing losing streak to Hogan, he still had a lot left in him. Anybody who can beat Big Van Vader for the WCW World title in December 1993 isn't washed up in July 1994. Why, we're all left asking, did Flair put his career on the line in a retirement match when he knew he had such trouble beating Hogan? Of course, these were the same people who were kneeling at Flair's feet after the Vader victory, before which he promised to retire if he lost. Flair himself admits that he probably could not have been successful in his challenge of Vader had he not challenged himself in such an extreme manner.

(Continued on page 52)

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in focus

By Craig Peters

UNCENSORED? UNWATCHABLE!

It was an unprecedented break with style in March when *PWI Weekly* used the space normally reserved for a cover story to print an editorial condemning the WCW Uncensored pay-per-view event. But it certainly wasn't uncalled for.

After all, WCW Uncensored was perhaps the worst wrestling pay-per-view event in history.

Of course, it wouldn't have been so bad had expectations not been so high. After all, the advance publicity for the event promised unbridled mayhem, unrivaled violence, and unsurpassed thrills.

What viewers of the event got was unparalleled boredom.

I was one of those viewers (though, thankfully, I watched the event at a friend's house; had I paid for WCW Uncensored, I'd *really* be angry!). I can honestly say that I haven't had so much anticipatory excitement for a pay-per-view in years.

Sadly (but to their credit), only The Nasty Boys and Harlem Heat came close to raising the kind of hell needed to rise to the occasion. For the rest of the competitors on the card, WCW Uncensored was nothing to censor, nothing special, nothing worth spending $27.95 to see.

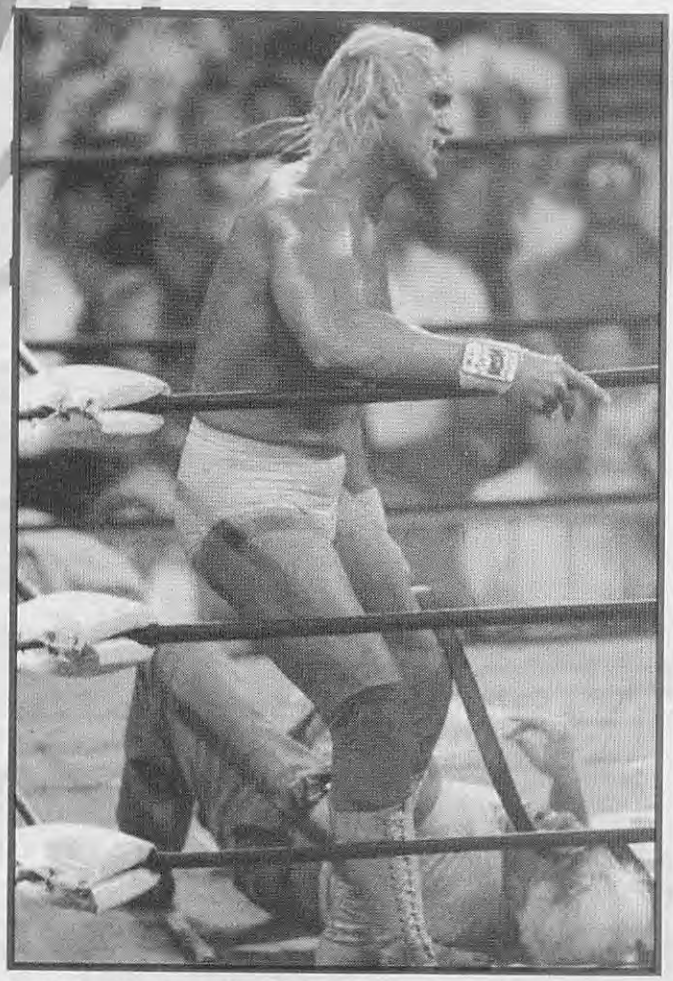
What a disappointment!

And more so after I learned a few bits of information.

Like the fact that apparently there's a TBS/Ted Turner policy of standards and practices that says there ought not to be too much violence on television. (I wonder if the people who came up with this policy watch TBS and the Turner-owned Cartoon Network, which airs tons of Tom & Jerry cartoons, among the most violent stuff on TV.) And the fact that because of this policy, viewers of WCW Uncensored were treated to camera angles that showed a wide view of the Tupelo Coliseum crowd rather than Big Van Vader trying to bash Hulk Hogan's head in with a chair.

Call the event WCW: Censored To The Max.

It is also because of this policy, *PWI* has learned,



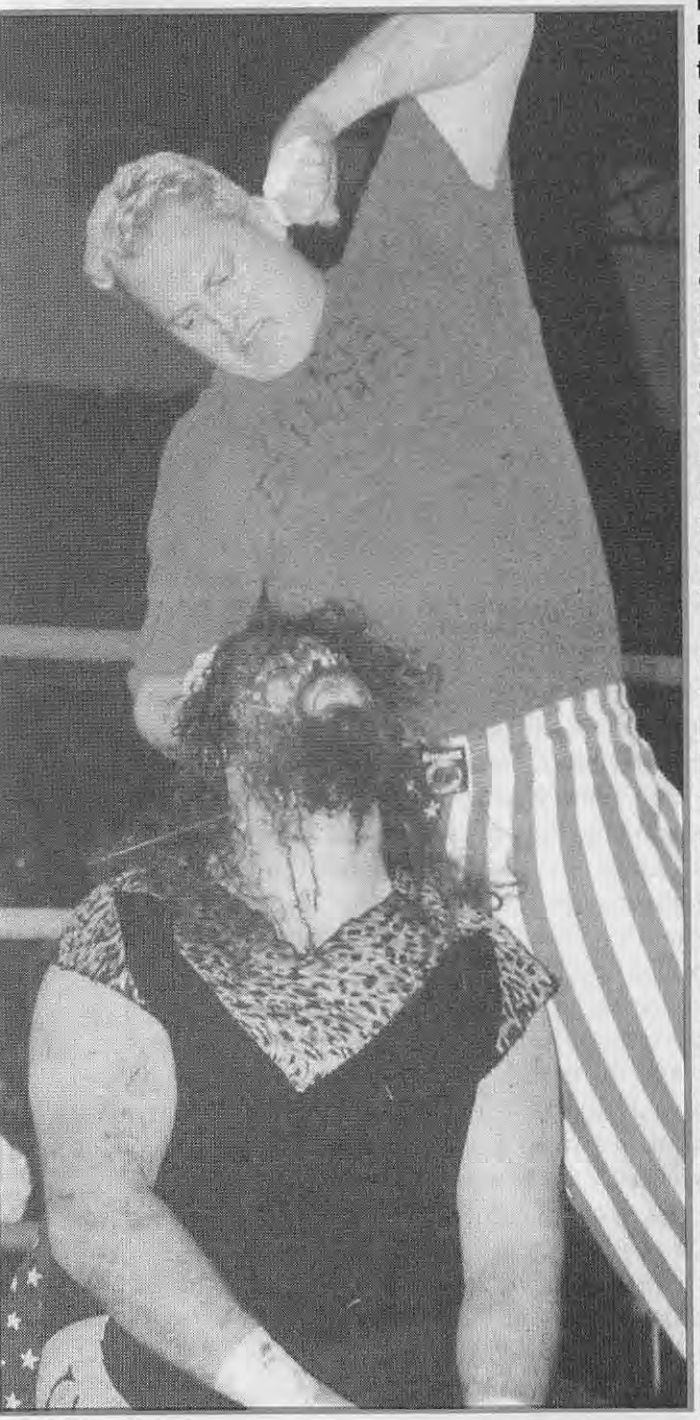
Perhaps *the* most ridiculous part of WCW Uncensored was when Hulk Hogan beat Big Van Vader in a strap match by dragging Ric Flair to all four corners of the ring (above). Any Sandman-Cactus Jack ECW match (opposite page) figures to be more violent than anything shown on WCW Uncensored.

that the Blacktop Bully-Dustin Rhodes match was edited down to cleanliness. Say what? That's right, edited down. The match was not aired live; it was videotaped earlier. The match had gotten significantly bloody, and the more violent and bloody portions had been edited out of the tape.

This is uncensored?

Maybe somebody ought to explain to the people at

TBS that wrestling is a violent sport. That to try to legislate the violence out of it is impossible, and that to try to not broadcast the more violent aspects of it is like trying to broadcast a basketball game without showing the ball going through the net.



In a word: absurd.

And what would have happened had, say, Sting's head gotten busted open during his match with Big Bubba Rogers? In all likelihood, it would have been like Lex Luger vs. Ric Flair in Baltimore on July 10, 1988, when an important title match was stopped on the smallest hint of blood. Anybody in the Baltimore Arena that night can vividly remember how outraged the fans were.

Perhaps the most baffling portion of the evening was when Hulk Hogan dragged Ric Flair to all four corners of the ring to win the strap match. Unfortunately, he was wrestling Vader at the time. Shouldn't the match have been ordered to continue?

Stu Saks accuses me of being a convert to ECW only because the office has moved to the Philadelphia area, and ECW is convenient. Perhaps he's right; had the office moved to a location near Pittsburgh, maybe I'd be singing the praises of Steel City Wrestling. Maybe not. But the fact of the matter remains: There is more censorable wrestling action in a typical broadcast of ECW's weekly television show than there was in more than two hours of the WCW pay-per-view event.

If you're going to have a pay-per-view event that promises to be ultraviolent, don't edit out the violence, and don't cut away to the crowd during violent portions of the card. Above all, don't even consider having such an event in the first place if the TBS standards and practices are such that the event isn't given a chance to succeed before the opening bell rings.

WCW Uncensored was unwatchable ... and unforgivable.

PLUG CITY... SIX MONTHS EARLY!!!

No, I'm not here to start begging you for "Unofficial/Official Awards" and predictions for what's going to happen in wrestling in 1996 (though it won't be long, actually, before I do!).

I'm here to announce that sometime near the end of the year, we'll be publishing the first-ever PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Wrestling Almanac! We're starting work on it now, because it's going to be the most ambitious publishing project ever undertaken by *PWI*, a publication in the must-have spirit of the year-end issue of *PWI*.

What's going to be included in the *PWI* almanac? Well, we have a bunch of ideas already. Title histories. Star profiles. Special year-in-review articles. A special look ahead to 1996. Statistics on hundreds of wrestlers. Directories of pay-per-view results and Achievement Awards. State-of-the-union messages on major federations worldwide. And much, much more. We're planning to put together *the* reference tool for wrestling fans.

But what I want to knows is this: What else would *you* like to see in a wrestling almanac? What sort of features would give this project a permanent home on your bookshelf? Write to me and let me know; we have almost a half-year to get it together, so odds are any good ideas you come up with will be included.

Send your suggestions to: Almanac Ideas c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034. □

win or lose or draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

Chief Jay Strongbow is very disturbed by what has happened with Tatanka—so disturbed, in fact, that he has a hard time even discussing the subject in public.

CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW is not a happy man these days. I know this because Senior Editor Bill Apter and I tried to visit with him at a WWF TV taping this spring. The Chief is unhappy because of what Tatanka has done. As you know, Chief was once Tatanka's mentor. Now Tatanka disregards all the important things the Chief tried to teach him.

I intended to ask Strongbow about this situation myself, and Apter offered to go along with me.

"He'll open up to me," Apter promised. "I've known the Chief for a long time. I'll get through to him."

Having known Bill for nearly a decade, I have learned not to underestimate the strength of his relationships with the wrestlers, retired as well as active. When Bill and I arrived at the arena one hour before the matches were scheduled to begin, Bill asked a security guard where he could find Strongbow, who is employed by the WWF. The woman did not know, but said she would attempt to find out. Ten minutes later, she returned.

"Mr. Strongbow says he's not available to talk right now," she said.

"I'll try again after the matches," Bill said.

One of the featured wrestlers on the card was, it turns out, Tatanka. Of course, this was not the Tatanka who had won the affection of the fans with his hard work and pride in heritage. It was not the man who was so eager to learn from the legendary Chief Jay Strongbow.

It was, instead, the man who turned to rulebreaking as a way to reach the top more rapidly. The man who thumbed his nose at his people just so he could collect some hefty paychecks from "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase. The man who expressed his gratitude to Strongbow by smashing him with a chop. The Tatanka we saw that night was flouting his disregard for the rules and enjoying it immensely.

Strongbow is so disgusted with what Tatanka has become that he has seconded the rulebreaker's rival, Lex Luger, on a few occasions. Even considering the circumstances, that was a surprise to those who know how wary Strongbow is of Luger and Lex's well-documented rulebreaking past.

"For Jay to stand there with Luger," said one friend, "that tells you how he feels about Tatanka nowadays."

After the last bout of a very long and exhausting night, Bill and I wended our way down to the locker room area. Again, we asked a guard to apprise Strongbow of our presence. Again, we received the same answer.

"Can you tell him it's very important?" Bill responded. "Otherwise, we wouldn't be bothering him."

When the guard returned, Strongbow was with him. Bill gave him a hug.

"Jay, it's really good to see you!" he said. "I'd like you to meet one of our writers, Andy Rodriguez."

Strongbow nodded at me.

"Jay," Bill continued, "how do you feel about this whole Tatanka thing? This must be tearing you up inside."

It appeared, at first, that Strongbow simply was

(Continued on page 54)

BISHOP HELL

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE HEAD PROMOTER OF YOUR OWN FEDERATION? Look no further! You rank the top contenders for the belts and set up spectacular supercards! You can play alone . . . or with friends!

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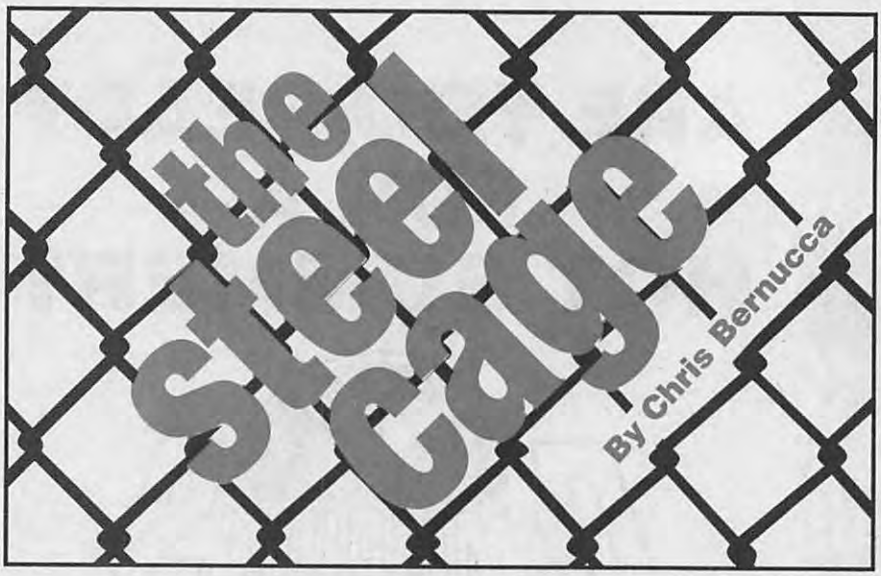
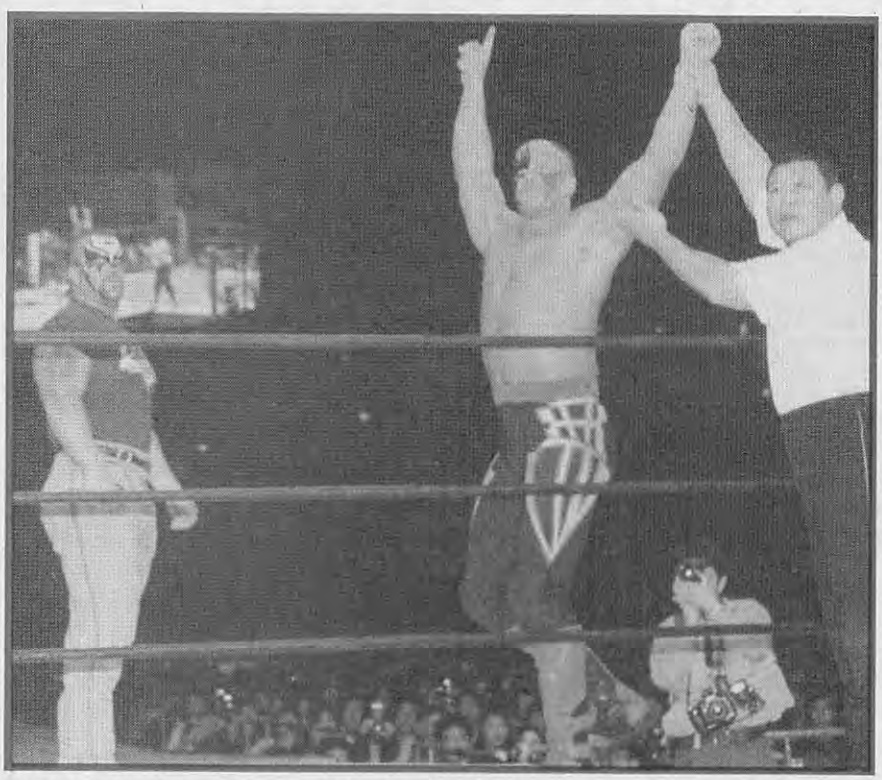


THIS 'N' THAT. It's one of those months in which I have too much on my mind to write about only one topic, so I'll look at few of the recent happenings in wrestling that have everyone talking.

NEWS ITEM: The Road Warriors return as a team.

Even the cynic in me knows that this is good news for wrestling, but only if one of the two major federations in the United States can get them back. The Road Warriors are the greatest tag team in the history of the sport and could only help revive interest in a division that has truly suffered over the last two years. More importantly, Animal and Hawk were as much a part of the wrestling boom of the 1980s as anyone else, including Hulk Hogan. The elaborate face paint, the intimidating mohawk haircuts, and the spiked shoulder pads all added a surreal quality that no team has been able to cultivate since the Warriors' split nearly three years ago.


The Road Warriors—Animal and Hawk—are finally getting back together again. Chris Bernucca thinks that's good news, as long as either WCW or the WWF signs them to a contract fast.

The return was scheduled to take place on April 29 in Mayday Stadium in North Korea against Shinya Hashimoto and Tadao Yasuda. Hawk and Animal had not wrestled as a team since SummerSlam '92, and, according to my sources, there had been some bad blood between the longtime partners during their hiatus. Animal also had a chronic back injury. They are not the same team they were in the late-1980s and early-1990s, but they can still be a dominant force.

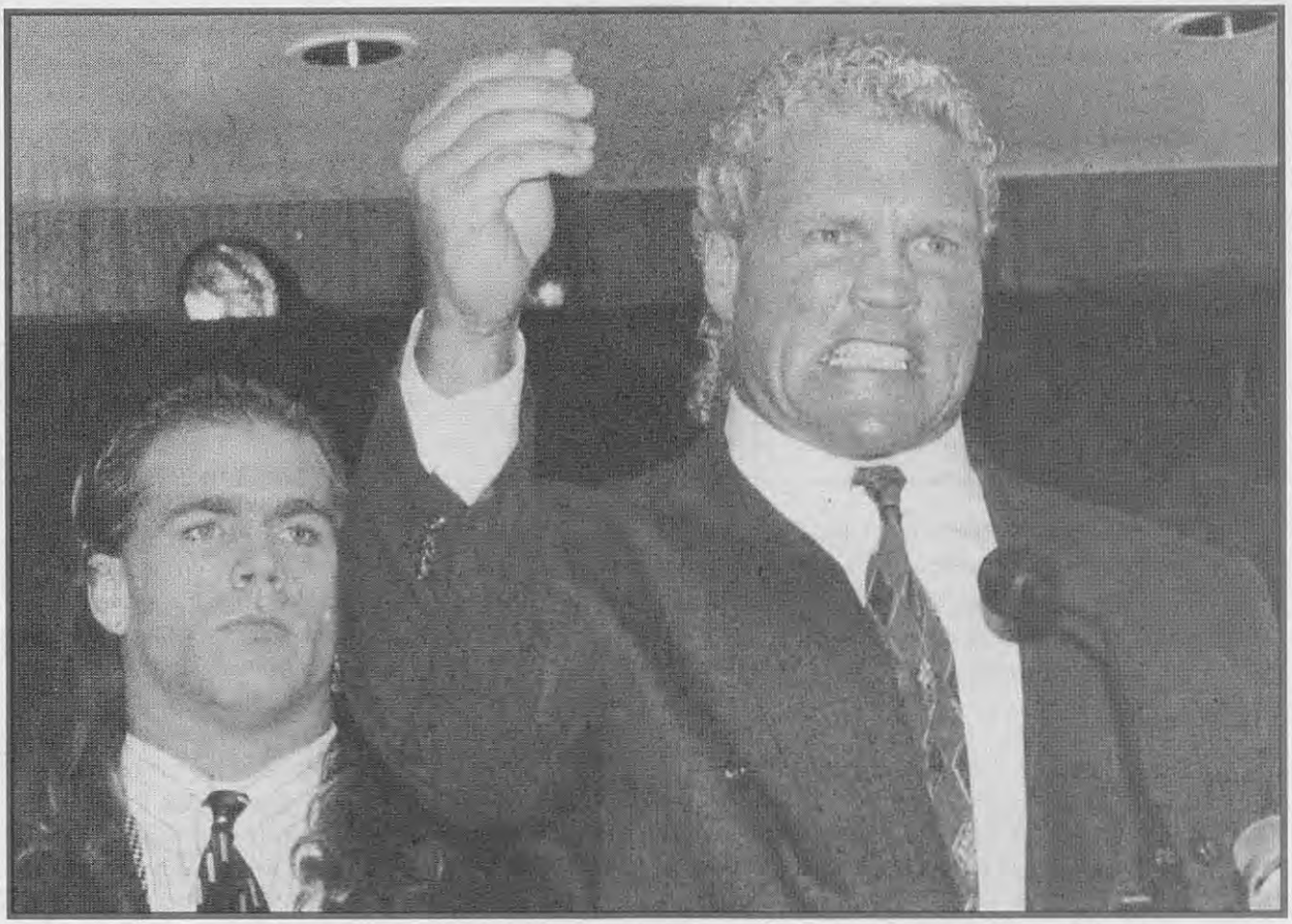
Prior to their breakup, there was nobody better. The Road Warriors—or The Legion of Doom, as they were known in the WWF—are the only tag team in the history of wrestling to win world titles in the WWF, NWA/WCW, and the AWA. They were quick and strong and worked unbelievably well as a team. Their only weakness was they were a bit too offensive-minded, but that may have come from the supreme confidence they had in each other. They knew they could devour any opponent.

One look at the current roster of tag teams in the WWF and WCW should tell you that both federations would be interested in bringing back The Road Warriors. How many matches do you think it would take Animal and Hawk to win the world title in either organization? One match? Two, maybe? There is no tag team that has the talent or the toughness to effectively compete with The Road Warriors.

It would probably take a pretty sweet deal for The Road Warriors to return to WCW or the WWF, because they reportedly departed both federations on bad terms. The bottom line is this: The WWF or WCW should offer The Road Warriors whatever they want to get them to return.

***

NEWS ITEM: Sid Vicious becomes the bodyguard for Shawn Michaels.



For now, Sid Vicious is content to stand at Shawn Michaels' side and work as his bodyguard. If and when Michaels becomes WWF World champ, Sid should turn against him immediately is Bernucca's advice to big Sid.

This pairing will make Chris Webber and Don Nelson look like eyelash-batting lovebirds. Does anyone really think that Vicious, who had been out of the major-federation spotlight for more than a year, intends to put aside his gigantic ego and play second banana to Michaels for long?

There is no doubt that Vicious has a hidden agenda. It is possible that he has set his sights on Pamela Anderson, who is the only WWF personality who has a bigger chest than him. But it is more likely that he has his eyes on the prize he has never won in his career—a singles title in a major federation.

If so, he may have picked the quickest route to the top. The last bodyguard for Michaels was Diesel, who won all three WWF titles in a span of seven months. Vicious knows that, until he has a championship belt around his waist, he will always have to answer to the critics—this one included—who say he just can't get it done when the pressure is on. (Is that worded to your liking, Mr. Publisher?)

When Michaels inevitably wins the WWF World title, Vicious should turn against him immediately, because that action will ensure him an immediate title shot against his former boss. As long as Shawn is merely a contender, Vicious should continue to breed false loyalty toward him in order to position himself better for a shot at the title. One thing is for sure: Michaels can expect more loyalty from Anderson than he can from Vicious.

***

NEWS ITEM: Ric Flair to wrestle Antonio Inoki.

The retirement is over. Flair's officially sanctioned return to the ring was to take place at the card in Korea in front of a crowd of about 100,000 people. And they say Michael Jordan's return was orchestrated.

During his "retirement," Flair probably experienced the same feelings Jordan did—the yen to satisfy an incredible competitive urge, the knowledge that he was still better than just about every active competitor, the desire to leave a better lasting image in the eyes of an adoring public.

All of those things are okay. What's not okay is that both sports are so devoid of icons in the making that the returns of both Flair and Jordan are greeted with warm hugs and big, wet kisses. Both WCW and the NBA should be taking a long look at their current roster of players and trying to figure out why no one has been able to take the baton from Flair and Jordan and sprint down the runway to greatness. Reaching into the past is no way to cultivate the future. □

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

THE LAST TIME football players trolled the WrestleMania rings, it turned out to be much ado about nothing. The football player-heavy battle royal highlighting WrestleMania II confirmed that immense size and strength may help you sack a few quarterbacks, but it does not make you a professional wrestler. I wrote last month that I hoped Lawrence Taylor wouldn't agree to a match with Bam Bam Bigelow, but as WrestleMania XI drew nearer, I began to have second thoughts. Imagine Hulk Hogan signing on with the Cowboys as a tight end. This is great stuff. I'm proud to live in a country where men like LT can get paid large sums of money to embarrass themselves in front of millions of people who pay large sums of money to watch. Let's hope this isn't a one-shot deal after all.

Dear Eddie,

I need your opinion. According to Chinese astrology, Lex Luger was born under the sign of the dog. What kind of dog do you think Lex is?

JANE POLSTON
Waco, TX

Dear Jane,

I'm definitely stealing this idea for another column. If you were a dog, what kind would you be, Jane? In Luger's case, it's an easy question. Luger started life as a rare breed, a show dog who, if handled with care, fed right, and given a long enough leash, would win blue ribbons forever. But as the years passed, it became clear Luger's pedigree was questionable. His bloodlines were investigated until the truth emerged. Luger is a mutt, a mongrel, a mixed-breed ho-hum who belongs on the streets fending for himself. Of all the tricks he has been taught, the only one he has remembered is the simplest one of all: Roll over and play dead.

Dear Eddie,

What federation has the best future? Based on talent, who do you think will lead the way for wrestling in the 21st century?

THIERRY MEISER
Santa Cruz, CA

Dear Thierry,

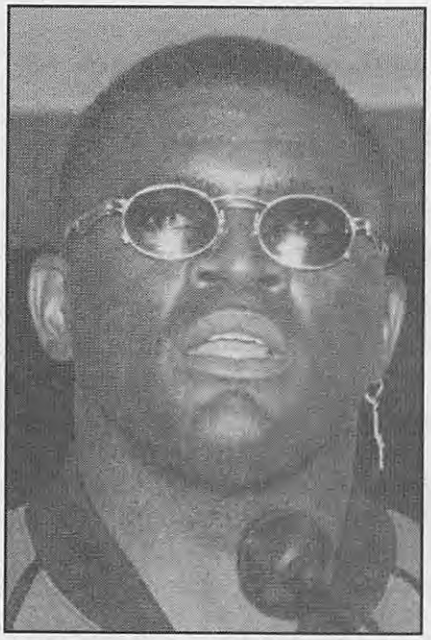
It's not just talent that makes the federations. McMahon and Turner make the same mistakes that other sports franchise owners do. It's easy to lure the big names into your house for a while. Today, Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage are in WCW. In two years, I'm sure they'll be back in the WWF. The federation to lead is the one with insight, and right now, that federation doesn't exist. That federation would fund "minor league" operations around the country to grow its own talent. It would look at long-term solutions without expecting men like Hogan to provide short-term box-office cures. It would plant grass roots. Maybe I should start my own.

Dear Eddie,

I agree with you when you say that Tamara Murphy Fytch is super. She has what it takes to make her men winners. I am 26 years old, stand 6'2", weigh 175 pounds, and am in the U.S. Navy. If she manages me, I'll give her 60 percent of my pay. Brian Lee and I as a team would stomp the hell out of The Rock 'n' Roll Express, the Steiners, or any team in between.

THE MEN OF BUNKER HILL
Deal, Manning, Raines, Murphy,
Harrington, Kirby, & Dentith

(Continued on page 58)



Yeah, Lawrence Taylor, you could make it as a full-time wrestler. And when you do, old friend, feel free to come down to the San Francisco 49ers' practice site. I'll be playing for them soon.

TAKE US ON!

#1: Big Ben

#2: Ace Stevens

#3: Jaeger van Dorn

#4: Bodybag Jones

#5: Wildfire Johnny Rage

#6: Eric Darkstrom

#7: Nook the Secret Weapon

#8: Derek Craven

#9: El Diablo Sanchez

#10: Tygar Singh

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WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. AIRPLANE SPIN
2. ARMBAR
3. ARMDRAG
4. ARMLOCK
5. ARM STRETCH
6. ARM WHIP
7. ASIAN SPIKE
8. BEAR HUG
9. BITING
10. BODY SLAM
11. BODY TACKLE
12. CHICKEN WING
13. CHOKE
14. CLAW
15. CLOTHESLINE
16. CROSS BODY BLOCK
17. DOUBLE AXEHANDLE
18. DROP KICK
19. EAGLE SPLIT
20. ELBOW SMASH
21. EYE GOUGE
22. FACE RAKE
23. FIREMAN'S CARRY RAM
24. FLYING BODY PRESS
25. FLYING CLOTHESLINE
26. FLYING DROP KICK
27. FLYING ELBOW DROP
28. FLYING HEAD BUTT
29. FLYING MARE
30. FOREARM SMASH
31. FOREIGN OBJECT
32. FULL NELSON
33. GIANT SWING
34. GRAPEVINE
35. HAIR PULLING
36. HAMMERLOCK
37. HEAD LOCK
38. HEAD STOMP
39. HEART PUNCH
40. HIP ROLL
41. IRISH WHIP
42. KNEE DROP
43. LEGLOCK
44. MANAGER INTERFERENCE
45. MONKEY FLIP
46. OVERHEAD TOSS
47. POLE RAM
48. REVERSE CHINLOCK
49. ROLLING SCISSORS
50. ROPE BURN
51. SAVATE KICK
52. SCISSORS GRIP
53. SHOULDER BREAKER
54. SLINGSHOT
55. SNAP MARE
56. STEP-OVER TOE HOLD
57. SUPLEX
58. SURFBOARD
59. TURNBUCKLE SMASH
60. WRISTLOCK

SET-UP HOLDS

61. ABDOMINAL STRETCH
62. ATOMIC DROP
63. AVALANCHE
64. BACKBREAKER
65. BACKROLL PRESS
66. BELLY TO BELLY
67. BIG SPLASH
68. BOSTON CRAB
69. BRAIN BUSTER
70. BULLDOG
71. CAMEL CLUTCH
72. COBRA CLUTCH
73. CRADLE
74. CRUCIFIX
75. DDT
76. FIGURE FOUR
77. FLYING LEG DROP
78. GOURD BUSTER
79. INDIAN DEATH LOCK
80. NECKBREAKER
81. PILEDRIVER
82. POWER BOMB
83. POWER SLAM
84. RUSSIAN SICKLE
85. SLEEPER
86. SLINGSHOT SUPLEX
87. SMALL PACKAGE
88. SPINE BUSTER
89. SUNSET FLIP
90. SUPERPLEX

_____
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

_____
ADDRESS

_____
CITY, STATE, ZIP

_____
WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE)

_____
WRESTLER'S HEIGHT WRESTLER'S WEIGHT

_____
SPECIAL GIMMICK OR DESCRIPTION OF WRESTLER

_____
MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU)

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

6_____ 7_____ 8_____ 9_____ 10_____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at right. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

Finishing Hold: Create your custom final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces

_____
FINISHING HOLD

Opponents: Check the numbers of the men you want your wrestler to go against from the 10 at the top. Remember to enclose $1.00 for each

1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__ 6__ 7__ 8__ 9__ 10__

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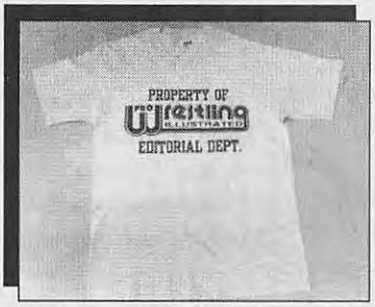

Take the PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED CHALLENGE and go head to head with the editors of PWI in the trivia match of your life. If you can answer seven consecutive questions correctly—without getting pinned—you can earn the title "Undisputed Wrestling Trivia Champ" and win $100* or a PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED T-shirt!

ALL-NEW QUESTIONS!

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next $100* winner!

Sting hails from which California beach community?
1) Malibu
2) Pacific Heights
3) Venice Beach
4) Newport Beach

Who managed The Moondogs to the WWF World tag team title?
1) The Grand Wizard
2) Capt. Lou Albano
3) Fred Blassie
4) Bobby Heenan

True or False: Rick Steamboat once briefly held the AWA World title.
1) True
2) False

Which of the following wrestlers has never held the WCW television title (as of December 31, 1994)?
1) Sting
2) Steve Austin
3) Rick Steiner
4) Scott Steiner

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the $100!*

CALL NOW!

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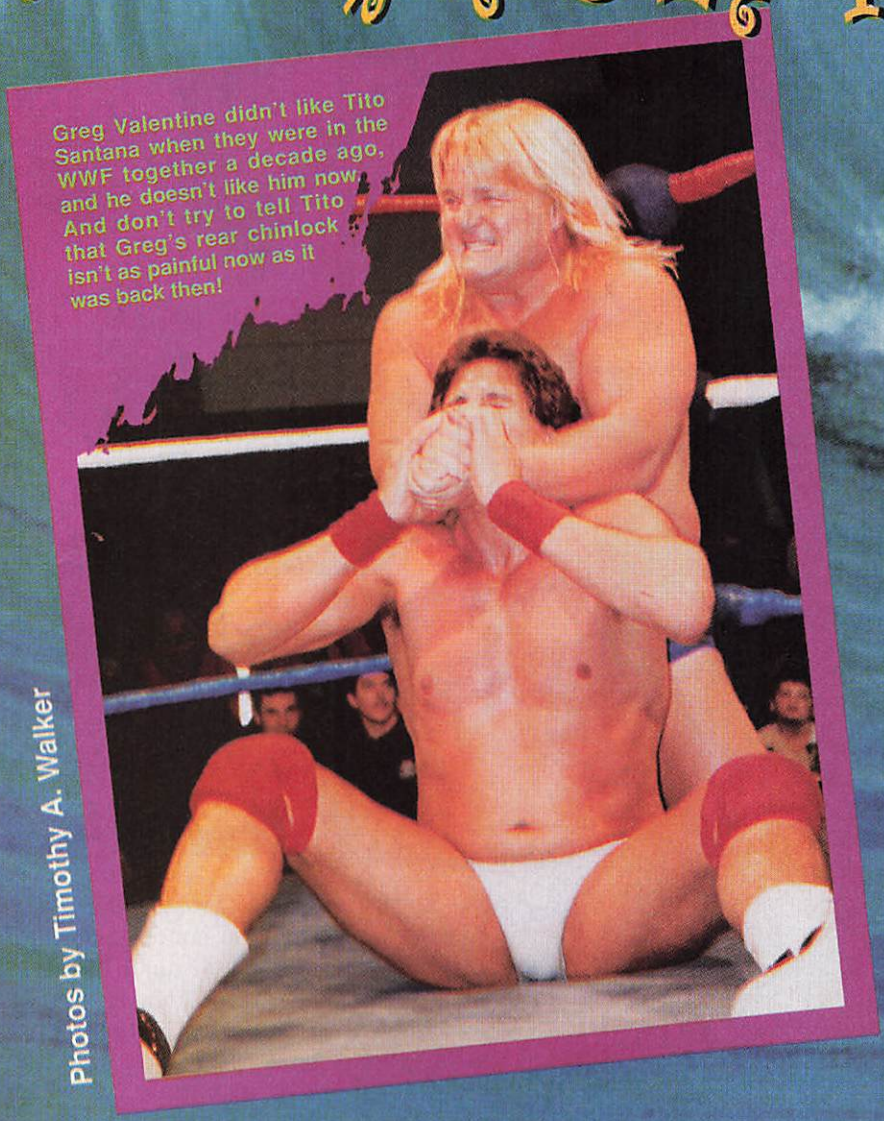
Call as often as you like. The contest begins February 1, 1995, and runs through May 31, 1995. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is $1.49 per minute in the United States, and 49p (39p cheap rate) in the United Kingdom. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333, USA. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one $100* winner. (*Or for U.K. winners, the equivalent in pounds sterling at the time the winner is selected.) From February 1, 1995, until May 31, 1995, a total of 12 PWI T-shirts (retail value $19.95 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.

3234/12-94

Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage make headlines in WCW, but they aren't the only ex-WWF superstars doing well elsewhere. Many others are having the time of their lives . . .

RIDING THE INDEPENDENT WAVE!

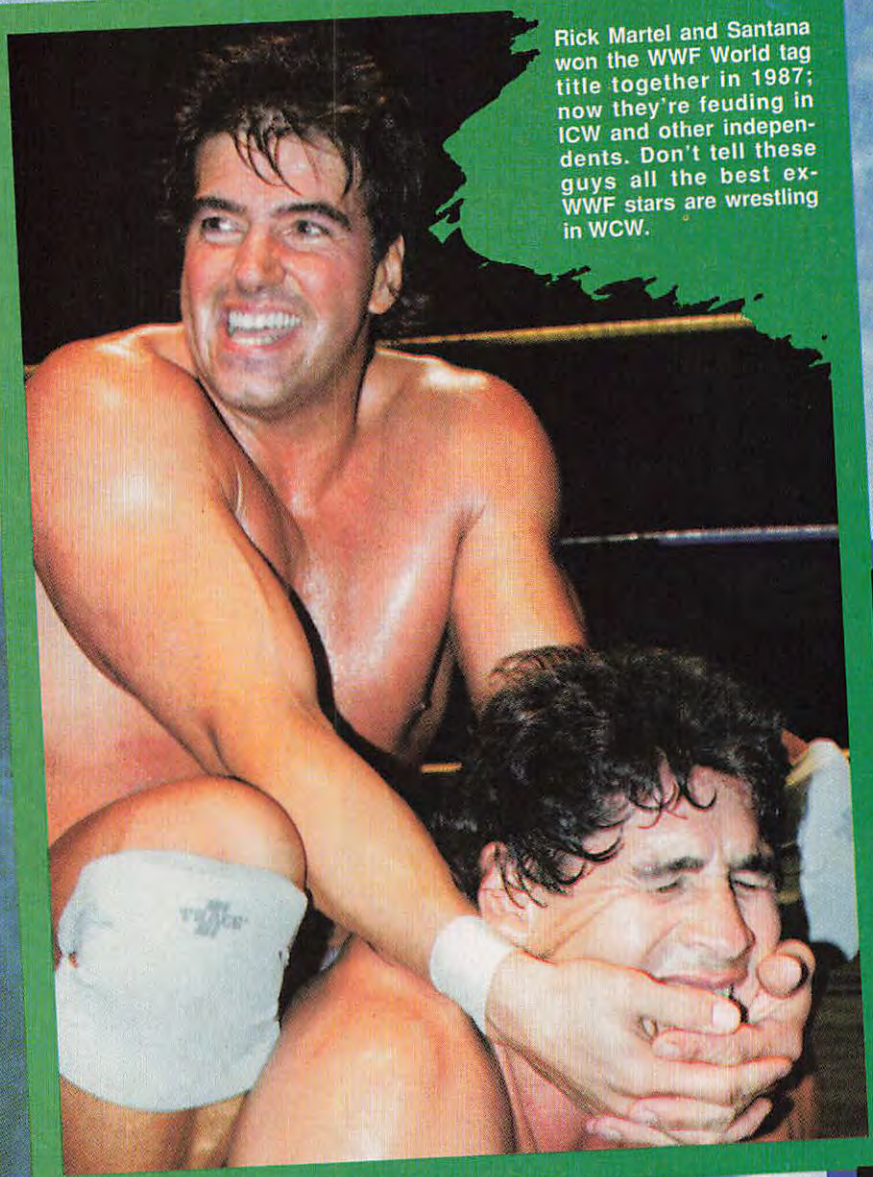


Greg Valentine didn't like Tito Santana when they were in the WWF together a decade ago, and he doesn't like him now. And don't try to tell Tito that Greg's rear chinlock isn't as painful now as it was back then!

Photos by Timothy A. Walker

By Andy Rodriguez

DON'T EVER TELL Tito Santana his days under the big top are over. If you do—and he happens to be in a particularly sour mood—he may smash you with a flying forearm! Okay, maybe not. After all, Tito's a nice guy.



Rick Martel and Santana won the WWF World tag title together in 1987; now they're feuding in ICW and other independents. Don't tell these guys all the best ex-WWF stars are wrestling in WCW.

Don't tell Greg Valentine he's washed up. If you do—and he's *always* in a bad mood—he might wallop you with one of his elbowsmashes. Either that or put you in the figure-four. Seriously. Valentine isn't as forgiving as Santana.

What Santana and Valentine are both saying in their own way is that they're very happy where they are. On the independent circuit, away from the bright lights of the WWF, they are more than merely surviving, they are thriving.

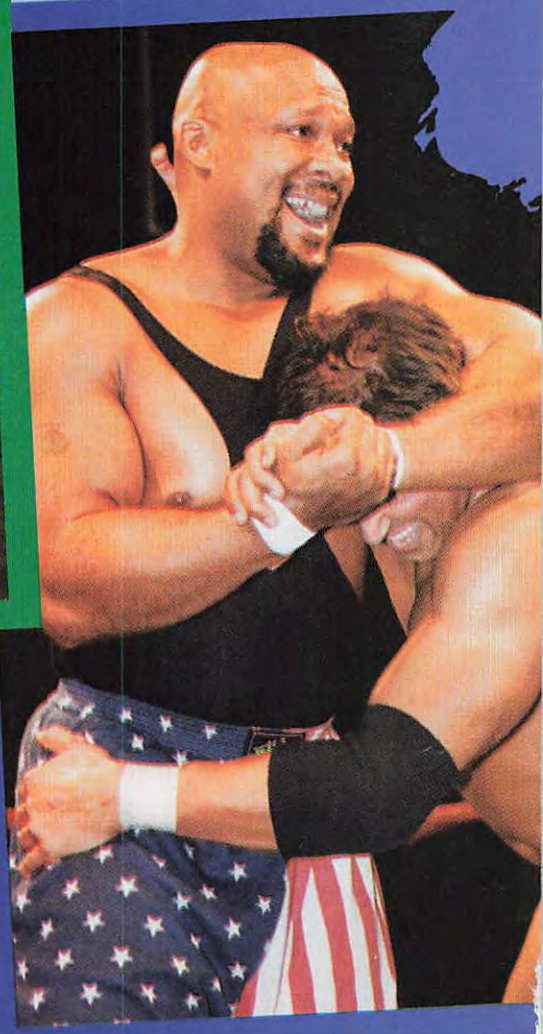
"I've never had so much fun," said Santana. "All we used to hear was how the WWF was the ultimate. And it really was terrific. It's just that now I know that wrestling in other places can be just as great."

"When I was WWF Intercontinental champion," Valentine offered, "I thought that, short of the World title, it didn't get any better. Today I may not have hundreds of people asking for an autograph at every card I'm on, or a bunch of lackeys sucking up to me, but I get a lot of satisfaction."

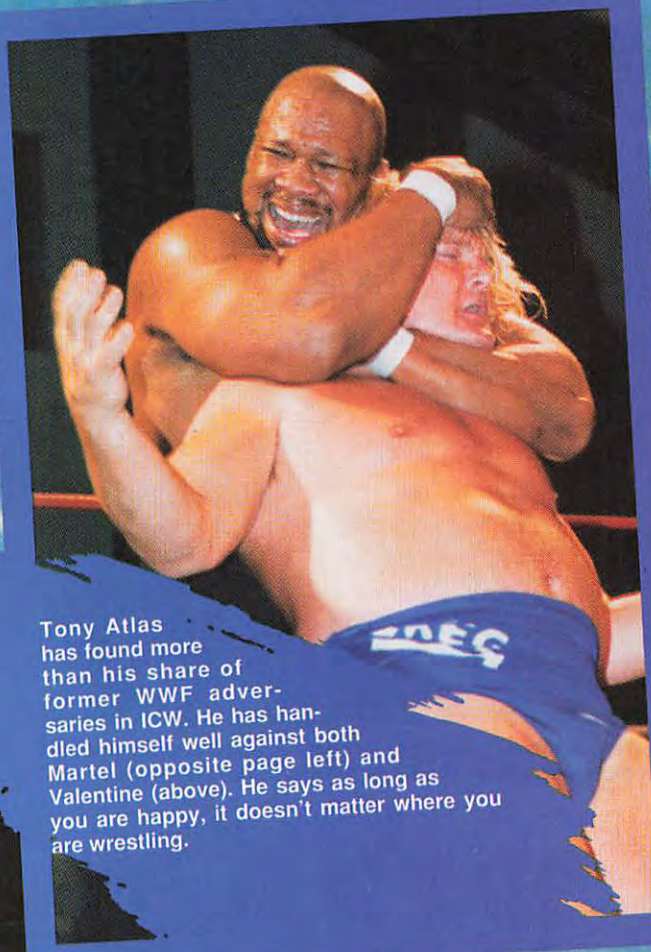
Yes, Santana and Valentine are, indeed, riding the independent wave. Fans of independent wrestling are enjoying the ride as much as they are.

"Just because guys like Valentine and Santana are getting older doesn't mean they're any less competitive or fun to watch," said Martin Perry, 31, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "Maybe the WWF gave up on them, but I didn't."

Such support is won with matches like the one contested between Santana and Valentine recently at an International Championship Wrestling card in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania. The two men, who feuded over the I-C belt a decade ago, were battling for Santana's ICW heavyweight title.



Santana lost the match—and the championship—by disqualification, only because he had unwittingly signed a contract that included the



Tony Atlas has found more than his share of former WWF adversaries in ICW. He has handled himself well against both Martel (opposite page left) and Valentine (above). He says as long as you are happy, it doesn't matter where you are wrestling.

stipulation that the belt could change hands on a DQ. The DQ came when Santana was caught with a foreign object, which had been brought to the ring by Valentine.

"You see, nothing ever really changes," Santana said angrily moments after the defeat. "Different place, but the same kind of cheating by Valentine. I promise you, though, he won't have that belt for long!"

"That Mexican jumping bean is still a crybaby!" Valentine retorted. "He couldn't beat me 10 years ago, and he can't beat me today!" Clearly, these men don't need the big federation supercards to get them psyched up. All they need is a mat hemmed in by ropes, and they aren't the only ones.

Also competing at that ICW TV taping were Tony Atlas, Ivan Putski, Jimmy Snuka, Koko B. Ware, and Rick Martel. All were once WWF mainstays, and they all agree with Santana and Valentine about the excitement of independent wrestling.

"If you believe you are a star, then you are a star, period," said Atlas. "It doesn't matter where you are wrestling."

"These fans seem to appreciate us more than some of the WWF fans did," Ware offered. "I think it's because in the WWF, there are so many big names that it was easy for people to get bored. The people who attend these smaller cards are a lot more appreciative. In a lot of cases, they aren't able to attend the bigger shows. We bring the action right to them."

The action is, of course, not confined to just the ICW. Martel regularly competes on cards across the U.S. and in his native Canada.

"After all these years, I'm still amazed by the support I get," he said. "You know, I'm a former AWA World champion and a former WWF World tag team champ, but I'm just as proud of what I'm doing night after night out here on the independent circuit. It's a tremendous feeling."

"Polish Power" Ivan Putski says he often tells younger wrestlers to be more appreciative of their humble surroundings.

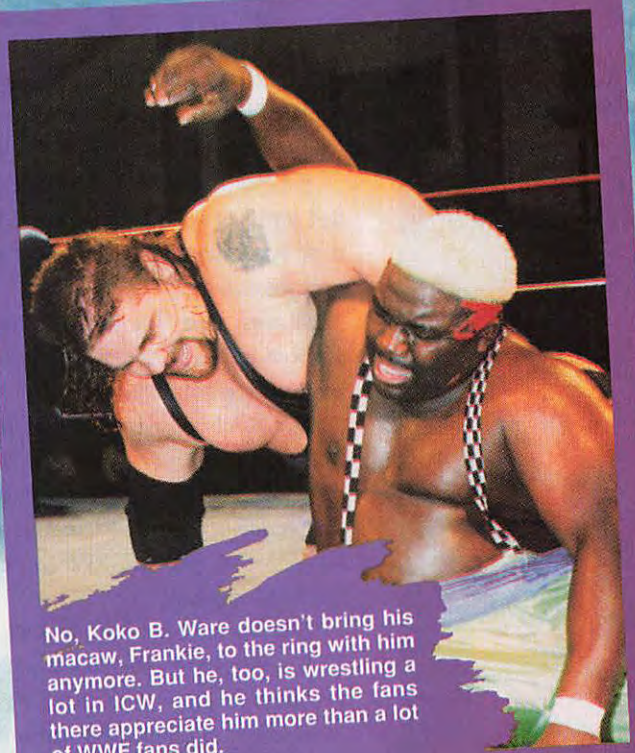
"These kids can't wait to get to the so-called 'big time,'" he said. "Well, I can't blame them; I was once a kid myself. But I tell them to enjoy this experience and make the most of it, because for most of them, the big time is right now. They aren't going to go anywhere else. But the way the indys are today, that isn't a bad thing at all."

Santana and Valentine do admit, though, they wouldn't mind having a bigger stage for their feud.

"I wish a lot more people knew this is one of the great feuds going right now," Valentine said. "I think they should know I'm still not through with Santana. I'll bet people would pack the biggest arena they could find to see me keep the pressure on this idiot!"

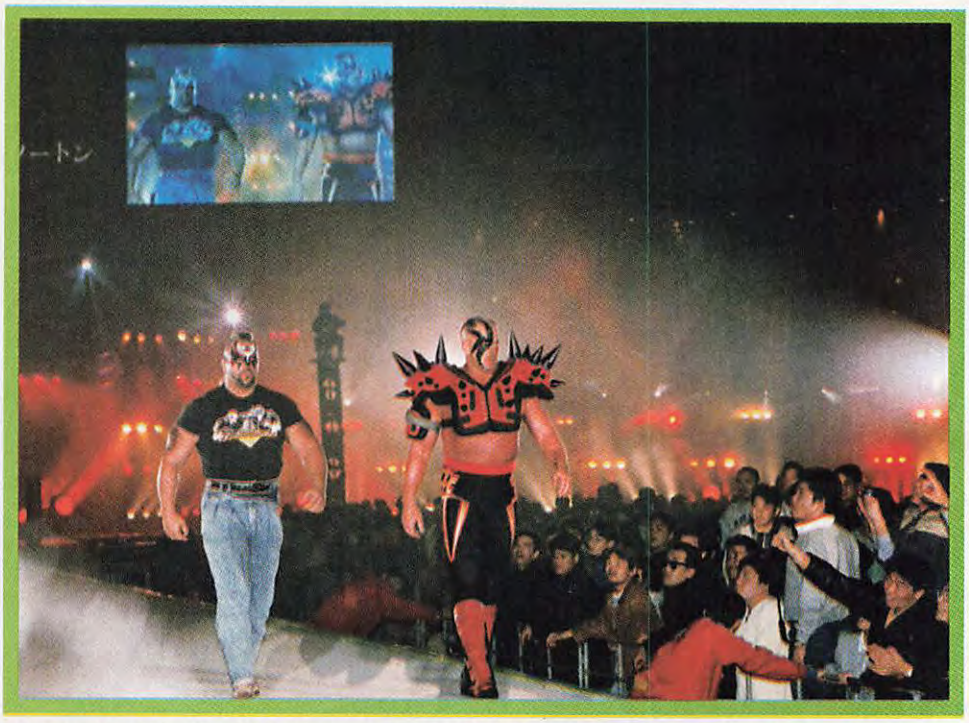
Said Santana: "Most folks think it

(Continued on page 60)



No, Koko B. Ware doesn't bring his macaw, Frankie, to the ring with him anymore. But he, too, is wrestling a lot in ICW, and he thinks the fans there appreciate him more than a lot of WWF fans did.

press conference...



Rumors that The Road Warriors were considering reuniting started in earnest after Animal accompanied Hawk to the ring for a match in Japan. The Road Warriors won't say when they will be back in the U.S.

THE ROAD WARRIORS

IN THE OPINIONS of many experts, they are the greatest tag team in wrestling history. They're certainly the most feared. Whether known as The Road Warriors or The Legion of Doom, Hawk and Animal are a devastating duo that overpowers opponents with a brutally no-nonsense style.

But Hawk and Animal haven't done much overpowering these past three years. They haven't wrestled together since SummerSlam '92, when Animal was forced to take time off because of a serious back injury. Since then, Hawk has wrestled on his own in Japan while waiting for Animal to work his way back into shape.

At press time, The Road Warriors were preparing to make their comeback on April 29 at Mayday Stadium in North Korea. A return to the United States—whether in the WWF or WCW—has been rumored but not confirmed.

At a combined weight of 565 pounds—most of it muscle—Hawk and Animal have fascinated fans with their street ruggedness and their penchant for kicking butt. In a typical match, they storm the ring prior to the opening bell and beat their opponents within seconds.

Considering that the Warriors are the only team to have won world tag team titles in the AWA, NWA/WCW, and the WWF, a victory over Harlem Heat or The Smokin' Gunns would figure to be a relatively easy task.

The Warriors, however, haven't made a commitment to either federation.

*PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED wanted to find out why, so we arranged a conference call among the Warriors in Japan and three **PWI** staffers: Senior Editor Bill Apter and Associate Editor Brandi Mankiewicz in Ambler, Pennsylvania, and Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum in Coral Springs, Florida. As you're about to find out, Animal and Hawk were a little touchy.*

BILL APTER: It's good to talk to you men again. When you announced you would be returning to action together in North Korea, you certainly generated a lot of excitement here in the United States ...

ANIMAL: As well we should have, considering the teams passing themselves off as world champions these days. Harlem Heat? The Smokin' Gunns? The Nasty Boys? The Kid and Sparky Plugg? What a bunch of jokes.

HAWK: Yeah, Animal, you should have caught those two mountain men in the WWF.

ANIMAL: Jacob and Eli, or something. Wimps! All of 'em!

APTER: So you agree that this is the perfect opportunity for a return to the U.S.?

ANIMAL: We don't agree with nothing you say, Apter, and it's none of your damn business. We'll come back when we want to come back.

APTER: But ...

HAWK: But nothing! You heard the man. Nobody dictates the terms. *We* dictate the terms. It doesn't matter to us what kind of competition's over there, we'd be the best no matter what it was. The L.O.D. doesn't go looking for easy pickings.

DAVE ROSENBAUM: Face it, guys, you don't go looking for anything these days. I'd be willing to bet most people in the U.S. have forgotten about you.

ANIMAL: What the hell are you talking about, wimp? None of the wrestling fans in America have forgotten us. You don't forget the greatest tag team you ever saw. The teams they're watching now are a bunch of punks! The longer we stay away, the more the people want us back.

BRANDI MANKIEWICZ: So this is a setup? Is that what you're telling us? You're trying to increase your value in the United States?

ANIMAL: Who's the girl, Apter?

HAWK: Yeah, it doesn't sound like no Liz Hunter to me. I like her voice.

ANIMAL: I bet she's a big fan of ours, too.

MANKIEWICZ: Perhaps you could just answer my question.

ANIMAL: Tough broad, isn't she, Hawk? Real tough. Lots tougher than Apter and Rosenbaum and that jerk Ellner who's always kissing up to us.

"None of the wrestling fans in America have forgotten us. You don't forget the greatest tag team you ever saw. The teams they're watching now are a bunch of wimps!"

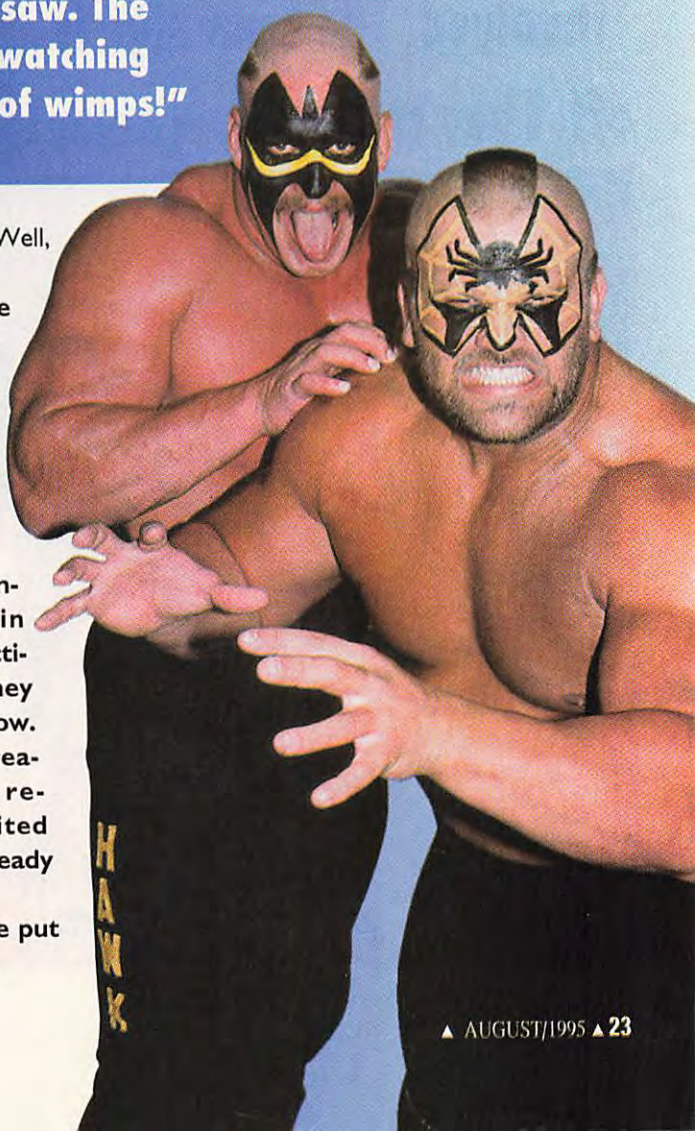
MANKIEWICZ: Well, is it true?

HAWK: We're not worrying about value, and we're sure as hell not worrying about money. We have all the money we ever need. Think we can't make a bundle over here in Japan? They're practically throwing money at us, that's all I know. There's only one reason we haven't returned to the United States: We're not ready to.

ANIMAL: Let me put

(Continued on page 48)

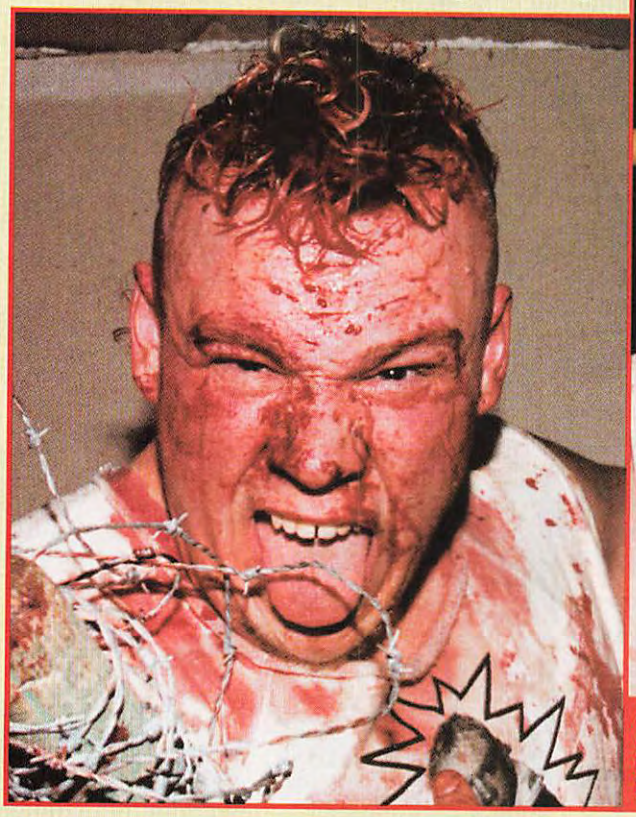
Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.



Take Me Out To The Brawl Game:

It's one, two, three strikes you're out at the old brawl game ... out cold, when Ian and Axl Rotten are involved. The bunt sign is off. They're swinging away!

Photos By Jason Ross Lavin



A chokehold is dangerous enough when a man has his *hands* wrapped around your throat. Just imagine how Ian Rotten was feeling when his brother Axl choked him with a baseball bat wrapped in barbed wire!

AXL AND IAN'S BLOOD FEUD GOES INTO EXTRA INNINGS!

By Dave Rosenbaum

THE EVENING'S weapons of choice seemed surprisingly fitting in the hands of two boys from Newcastle, England, who grew up playing soccer and cricket, but had never touched a baseball bat before coming to America—let alone a baseball bat wrapped in barbed wire. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust ... The Ashes, Great Britain's most important cricket tournament, was never quite as violent as Ian and Axl Rotten's version of Saturday Night Baseball.

Axl took a mighty swing, but unlike Casey in "Casey At The Bat," he didn't strike out. He connected with a sickening thud against the side of Ian's leg. When Ian got his hands on the 34-ounce Louisville Slugger, he chose not to bunt. He swung for the bleachers and slammed Axl in the ribs.

Wood crushed against skin and bone. In England, batsmen swing at cricket balls with an underhand motion. In Philadelphia, supposedly the City of Brotherly Love, Ian and Axl looked like Frank Thomas and Cecil Fielder. There were no called strikes, only pre-emptive bashings.

And blood poured from the faces of Axl and Ian.

The gruesome feud between the Rottens, two brothers who were known as Bad Breed when they were a tag team, started on January 7 at ECW Arena in Philadelphia and has now stretched into extra innings, with no end in sight. Anyone who dares to compare this feud to the War Between the Harts in the WWF or Sullivan vs. Sullivan in WCW just hasn't seen Axl and Ian step up to the plate.

Their "baseball-bat-on-a-pole" match on February 25 at ECW Arena lowered brotherly brutality to new depths and sent this chilling thought through the minds of everyone present: These brothers weren't merely out for revenge. Beating each other wasn't the goal. *Maiming* each other? That was more like it.

"I really don't give a damn *what* happens to him," said Ian, who

Ian already had blood streaming from his forehead, the back of his head, and his left arm when he took Axl to task with the bat. He wanted to make sure his brother didn't miss out on any of the bloody fun.

fired the first pitch in this feud when he attacked Axl after their match against The Pit Bulls on January 7. "He's not my brother anymore. He's my worst enemy, and I would've smashed him into the ground with that baseball bat if I had the chance."

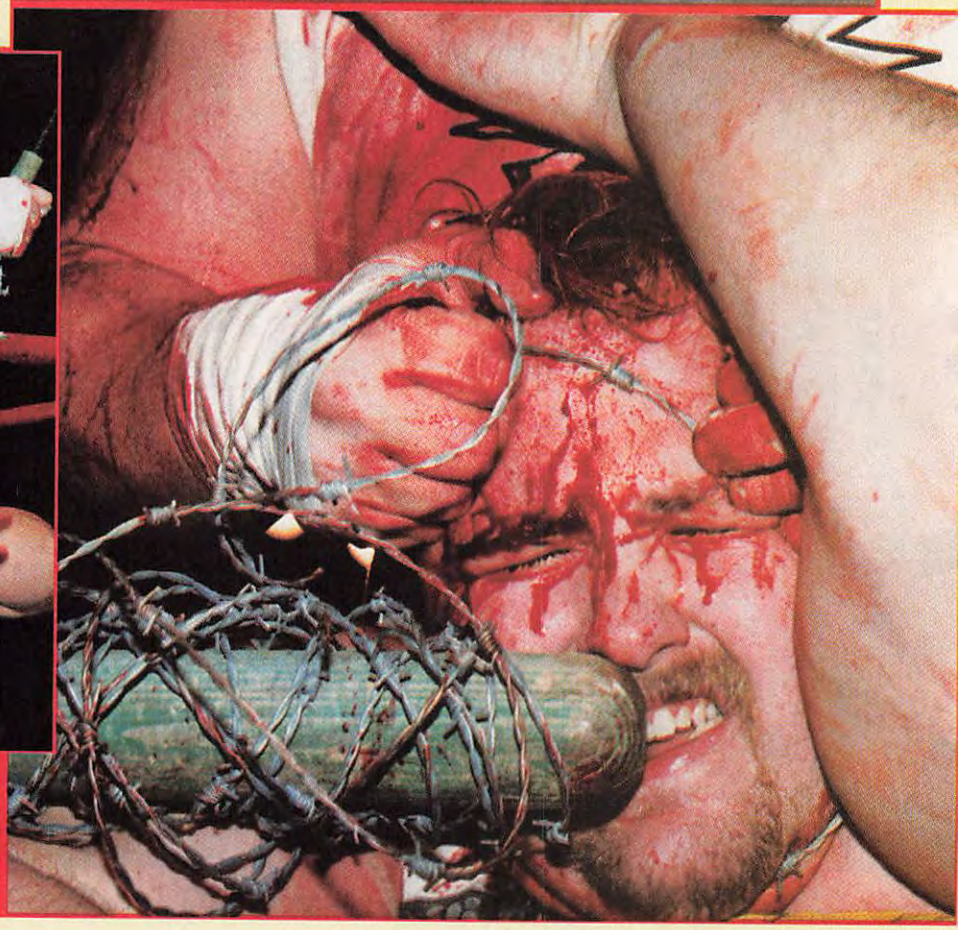
Ian paused and chuckled for what must have been the first time in months.

"You know," he said as medical technicians tried to stop the blood from streaming from his forehead, "this game baseball of yours is a mighty violent one. I love it!"

Axl, who at first had no desire to feud with his brother, has finally gotten into the spirit of things; he won the baseball bat match after piledriving Ian and scoring the pin. There is still plenty of bloodlust in his eyes and plenty of revenge in his heart. Axl realizes he is not only fighting for his family, he's fighting for his life.

"When this whole thing started, I was

Photo by Tim Walker



It must be a case of brotherly hate if Axl was willing to tear into Ian's forehead with barbed wire while the bat was already shoved in Ian's face (above) ... and Ian didn't think twice about shredding the skin on Axl's face with the bat (right).

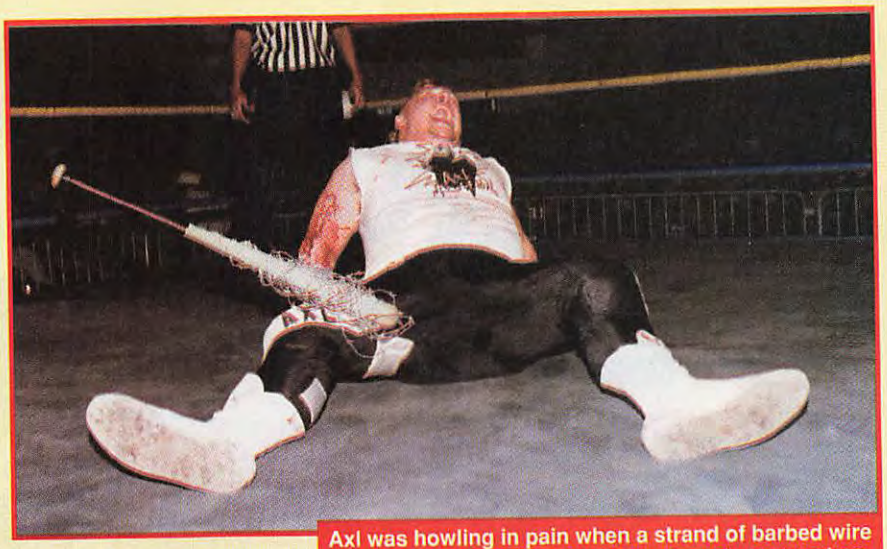
angry at Ian for getting our mum in the middle of it," Axl said. "For a while there, I actually thought about catching the first British Airways flight back to England and leaving Ian to his own devices. It was only after a while that I realized what he had done and what had to be done, and then I decided that I wasn't going to run away. I had no choice but to beat the bloody hell out of him!"

Nobody will say which brother proposed the baseball match. In an interesting battle of oneupmanship, Axl claimed it was his idea, while Ian claimed it was his. Originally, a wooden baseball bat was to be wrapped in barbed wire and mounted on a pole. The first wrestler to grab the bat off the pole would get to use it as he saw fit.

Problem was, the bat never made it to the pole. Ian and Axl got their hands on it and never allowed the match to begin under the assigned rules—not that anyone particularly cared.

"It looked to me like that was their plan all along," said Marty Jannetty, who wrestled on the card. "They didn't want to wrestle, they just wanted to hurt each other. Man, it was really something to watch. I couldn't imagine doing something like that to my brother."

A plain old baseball bat would have been a dangerous weapon. Wrap it in rusty, pointed barbed wire, and it becomes deadly. Axl and Ian were actually examined afterward and given tetanus shots as a precautionary measure. From the first swing—which opened a gash on Ian's forehead—it was clear ECW fans were in for a brand of violence even they had not seen in this mayhem-prone federation. When the match had ended, neither wrestler was satisfied with the result. They both wanted more.



Axl was howling in pain when a strand of barbed wire stuck in his leg. After the match, though, he was begging promoters to sign him to a similar match. This bloody family feud might not end for a while.

"Pinning him ain't enough," Axl spat. "I want to teach that brother of mine a lesson he'll *never* forget! It's too late for us to mend our problems, so maybe I can just get him out of my way."

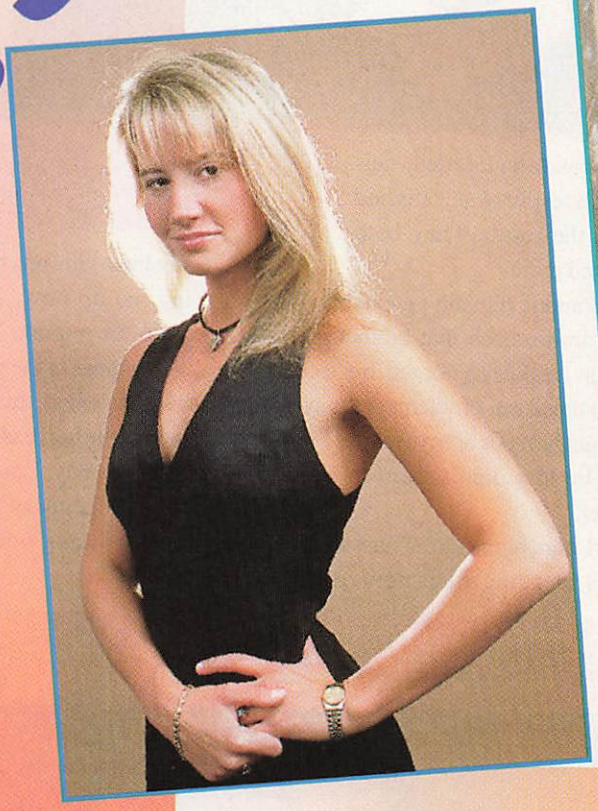
The loss didn't seem to bother Ian, either.

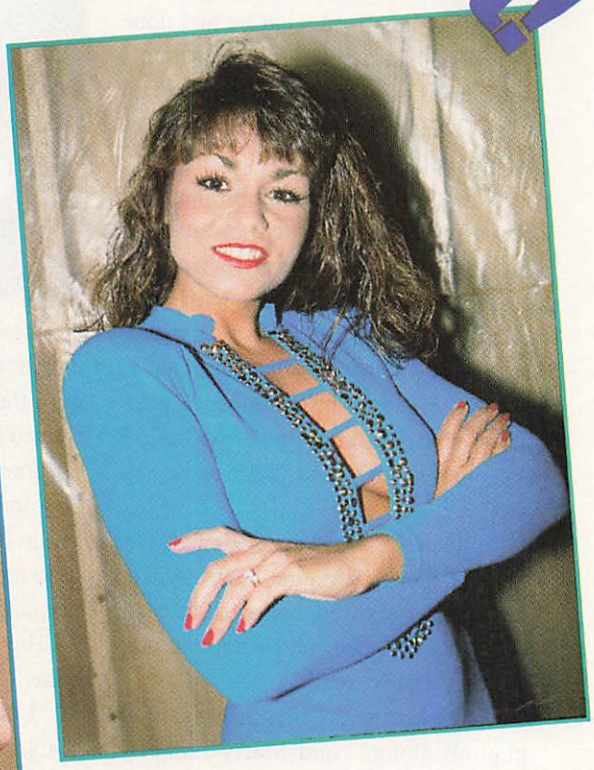
"I hurt him, right?" Ian said. "Good. He's bleeding right now, and they're stitching him up, just like they're stitching me up now. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Who cares who won? The winner is the one who's heart is still beating when this thing is over. Let's have another baseball bat match, any time, any day. I'm ready."

As legendary former Chicago Cub Ernie Banks once said, "Let's play two!" □

Some fans were willing to help Axl slam his brother's battered head into a metal chair. But even a few of the bloodthirsty ECW fans had to be taken aback by the extreme violence and gore they saw in this bizarre specialty match.

It's A Man's Sport? Yeah, Right!





Women are taking over the workplace in modern society—and taking over in wrestling, too. Men are no longer making all the key decisions

By Liz Hunter

SHERRI MARTEL CAN remember the times when, as a little girl growing up in New Orleans, she and her friends would go to the playground for an afternoon of unsupervised fun. Within 15 minutes, there would be a dozen parents on the scene trying to break up a disturbance. Little Sherri had done it again.

"It got to the point after a while where none of the other kids would sit in the sandbox with me," Martel fondly recalled. "To me, that was a little wrestling ring, and I'd just pick up the little kids and slam them in the sand. I guess I knew what I wanted to do with my life at an early age."

Tamara Murphy Fytch has slightly different memories of her earlier years. Fytch didn't punch, kick, or slam anybody, but she controlled her peers nonetheless. From 10th grade on, Fytch was president of her student council, head cheerleader, captain of the girls varsity soccer team, and president of the debating society. Not surprisingly, her peers voted her "Most Likely To Succeed" during her senior year of high school.

"Everybody knew me," Fytch said. "I had my hand in just about everything, and you know what was the most awesome thing of all? Even with doing all that, I still pulled straight A's. I've known I'm something special for a long time."

Fytch and Martel are two of the very special women ruling the power meetings in wrestling these days. They are mentally and emotionally stronger than a lot of the men in the sport. Physically, Martel can give many of the guys a run for their money (did anyone catch her beating on The Nasty Boys at WCW Uncensored?). Anyone who still thinks wrestling is a man's sport has another think coming when wrestling's power gals are around.

Fytch. Martel. Woman. Miss Texas. Alundra Blayze, Bull Nakano. These are the women whose power, intelligence, and beauty shrink any man down to size when they're around. Wrestling's female power brokers wear the pants in this sport.

Take Martel, who has managed Harlem Heat to the WCW World tag team title. Here's a team that had little going for it until Sister Sherri

Woman doesn't care what anyone thinks of her. Sandman probably wouldn't have accomplished nearly as much in ECW without her. Heck, she'll even try to claw Cactus Jack's eyes out if she sees fit.

joined the fold. Under her management, they have risen to the top of the tag team heap.

"Harlem Heat is great because I don't let anybody step on them," Martel said. "Anyone who thinks they can pull a fast one on my men is in for a big surprise. I've been around this game long enough to know the ins and outs, and one thing I know is that when you have the belts, you call the shots."

Martel has also won the AWA and WWF Women's titles and managed WCW World champion Ric Flair and WWF Intercontinental champion Shawn Michaels. She is not only the top female manager in the world, she is possibly the top manager in the world, period.

"I don't see who's had more success managing more top wrestlers lately," said broadcaster Tony Schiavone. "Sherri has power, and she knows how to use it."

So does Fytch, who made relative unknowns Chris Candido and Brian Lee into somebodies ... and champions. There's little doubt Fytch's star will soon rise much faster and shine much brighter. She's just one of those self-made women who needs only one little break to turn it into something big. Fytch is smart, beautiful, and aggressive.

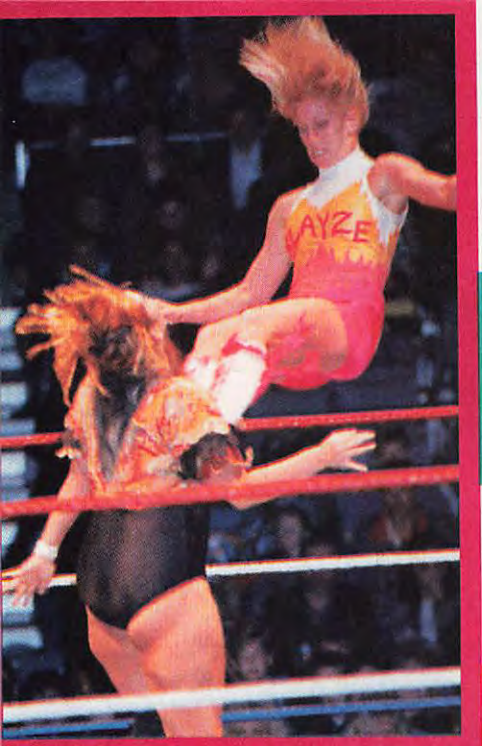
Woman hides her intelligence behind a beautiful, though somewhat slutty exterior. She knows sex sells, and a sexy image can help advance a woman's career. This Woman, who manages The Sandman in ECW and had managed former World tag team champions Doom in WCW, rules with a lace fist.

Who can forget the night when Tommy Dreamer, despite being beaten to a bloody pulp by a Singapore cane-wielding Sandman, refused to kiss Woman's feet? She said Sandman would stop only if he did this. But doing so would have been giving in to her power. There is no doubting who controls Sandman.

"I don't like men telling me what to do," Woman said. "It's not my style. Men think they can have their way with me because I'm beautiful and sexy, but it's all part of a power trip, and the power is mine."

Kimberly, "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony's "Dirty White Girl," has been a bit

Sherri Martel regularly assists in the physical assaults by The Nasty Boys and doesn't care what the consequences are. Is it so hard to believe she bullied all the other kids in the sandbox when she was little?

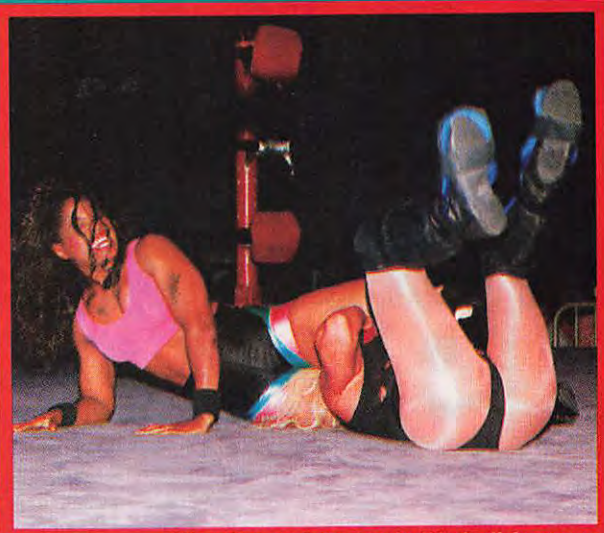


Alundra Blayze is beautiful, but she'd rather be known as the woman who made women's wrestling popular again. As for Bull Nakano, she's as tough and powerful as most men.

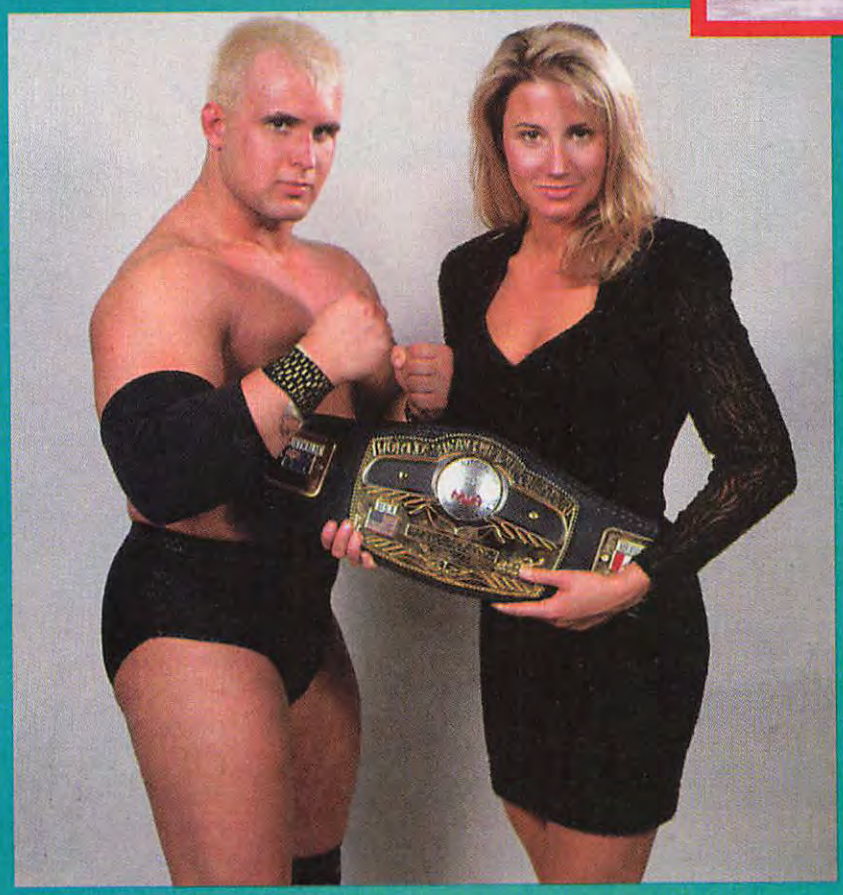
more subservient than most women in wrestling, but still plenty powerful. Last year, she knocked out a wrestler named The Hornet with a single punch.

There's no doubting Miss Texas' beauty or power. She is still the only woman ever to be ranked in the "*PWI* 500." Long live Missy Hyatt, who's out of the sport, but not out of our hearts or minds. The image of Missy lives forever. And she wasn't merely the blonde bombshell to end all blonde bombshells. She was an effective manager, valet, and TV commentator.

Alundra Blayze, formerly known as Madusa Miceli, and Bull Nakano, the WWF World Women's champion, do their work mainly in the ring. Although she is extremely beautiful, Blayze would rather be known as a world-class wrestler than a world-class beauty. Her goal is to make women's wrestling as popular in North America as it is in Japan.



Miss Texas has made life hell for practically every woman who has appeared in the USWA ... and a few men, too. After beating Jamie Dundee two years, she became the first woman ever to be ranked in the "*PWI* 500."

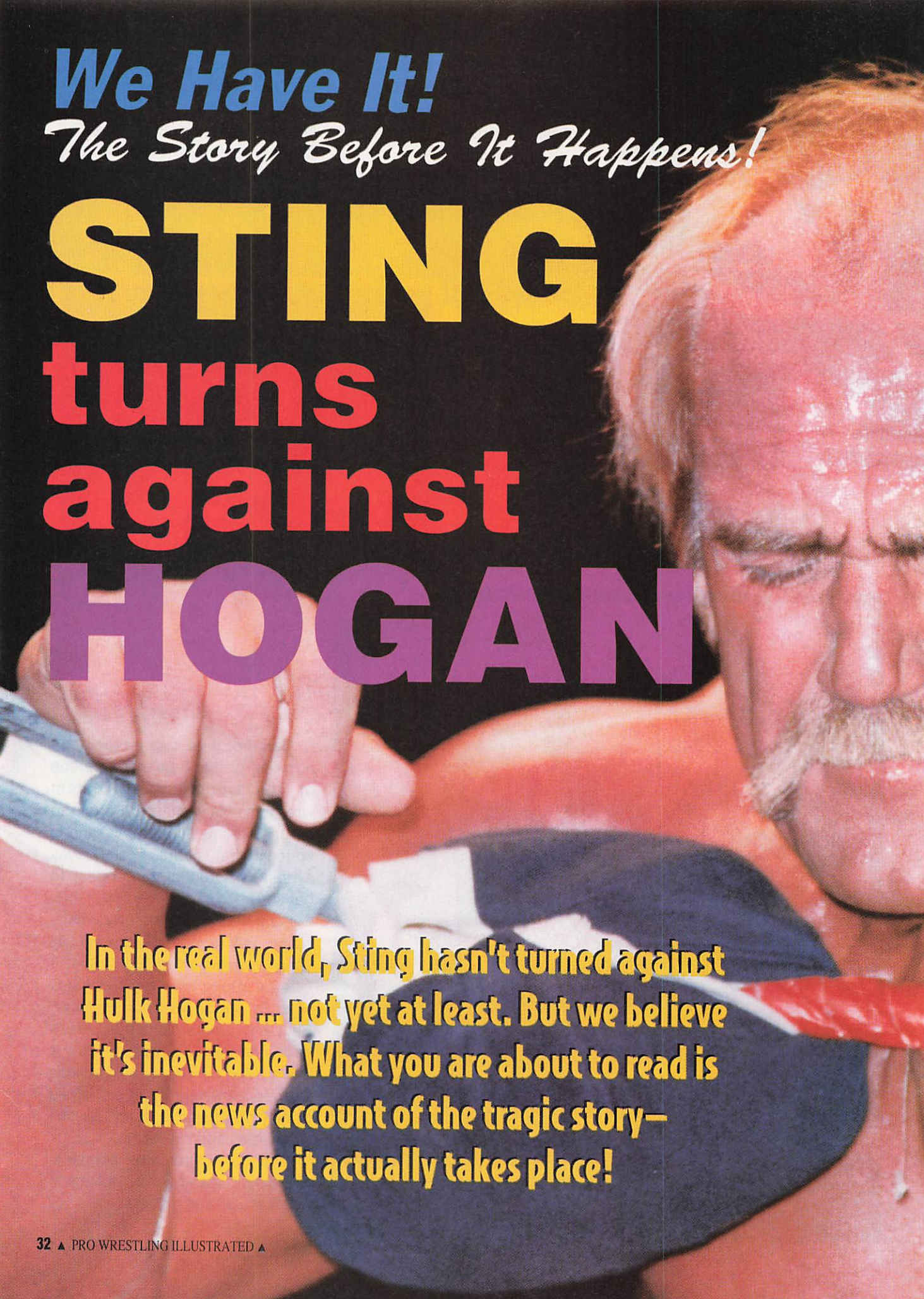


Would Chris Candido ever have won the NWA title without Tamara Murphy Fytch's expert guidance? No way, she says. In just two years, Fytch has become one of wrestling's most powerful managers.

Nakano, who has never been accused of being beautiful, is one of the world's most violent wrestlers. Many men are afraid to go one-on-one with her. Nakano is so tough that she has scared away a host of potential contenders to her title.

Luna Vachon scared away many suitors before marrying the equally scary Vampire Warrior in 1994. It takes a strong man to simply look at Luna, much less confront her. But Luna is the prototype of today's strong female in wrestling. She is much more concerned with actions than appearances. She isn't afraid of being aggressive. Luna doesn't care if men approve of her.

Like most of the other women in wrestling, Luna approves of herself, and that's all that matters. □

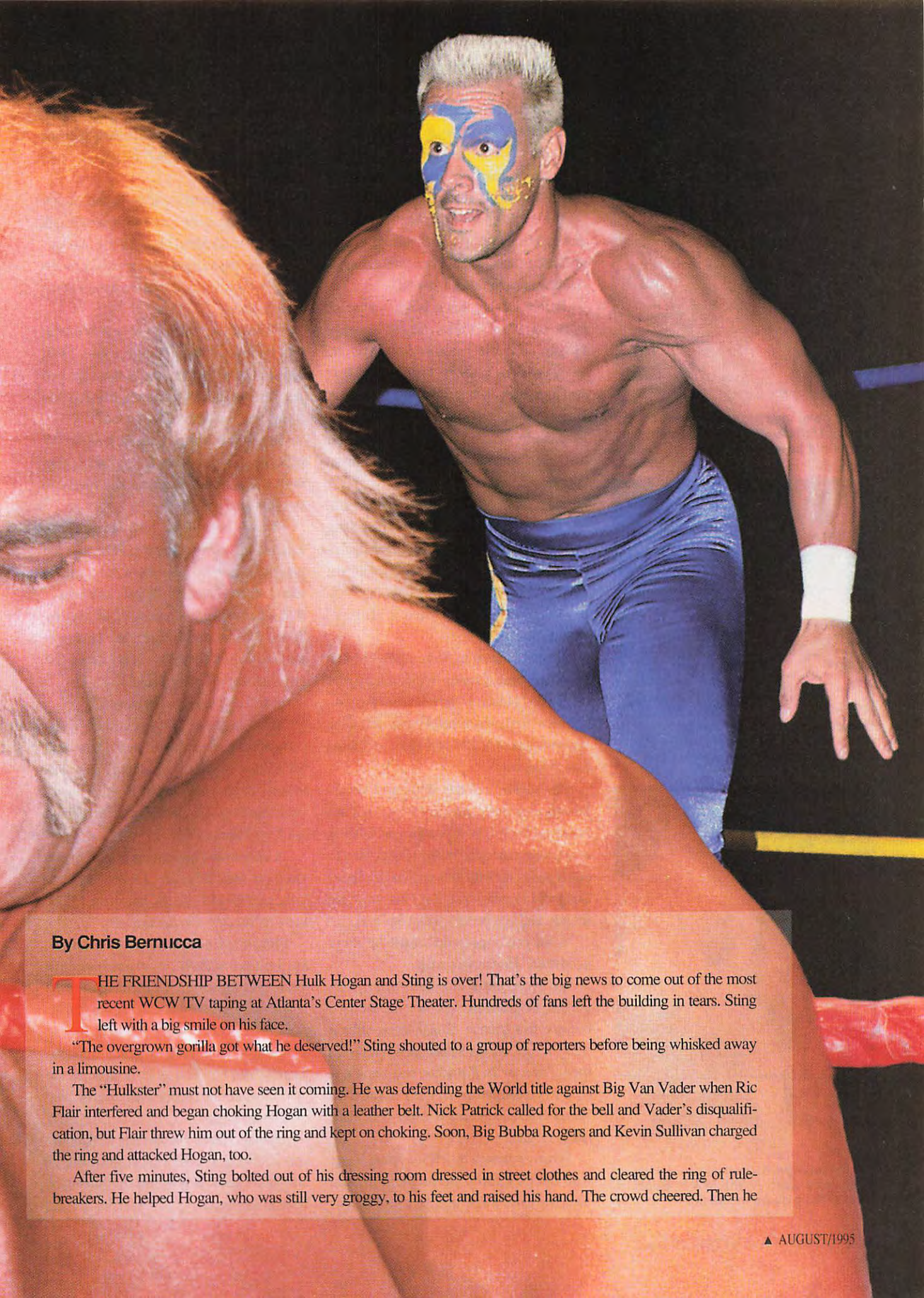


We Have It!

The Story Before It Happens!

STING turns against HOGAN

In the real world, Sting hasn't turned against Hulk Hogan ... not yet at least. But we believe it's inevitable. What you are about to read is the news account of the tragic story—before it actually takes place!



By Chris Bernucca

THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN Hulk Hogan and Sting is over! That's the big news to come out of the most recent WCW TV taping at Atlanta's Center Stage Theater. Hundreds of fans left the building in tears. Sting left with a big smile on his face.

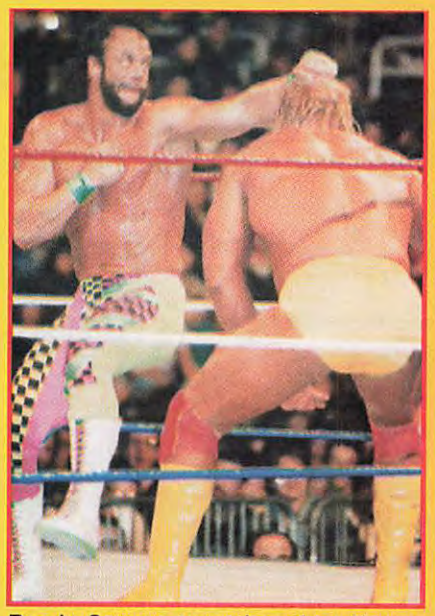
"The overgrown gorilla got what he deserved!" Sting shouted to a group of reporters before being whisked away in a limousine.

The "Hulkster" must not have seen it coming. He was defending the World title against Big Van Vader when Ric Flair interfered and began choking Hogan with a leather belt. Nick Patrick called for the bell and Vader's disqualification, but Flair threw him out of the ring and kept on choking. Soon, Big Bubba Rogers and Kevin Sullivan charged the ring and attacked Hogan, too.

After five minutes, Sting bolted out of his dressing room dressed in street clothes and cleared the ring of rule-breakers. He helped Hogan, who was still very groggy, to his feet and raised his hand. The crowd cheered. Then he

Sting goes after Hogan's throat on the set of *Thunder In Paradise*. Soon, they might not be acting.

Hogan comforts Sting after an attack by rulebreakers. Soon, it might be Hogan attacking a rulebreaker named Sting.



Randy Savage turned against Hogan when they were in the WWF. Soon, it may be Sting doing the same.

clotheslined him. The crowd fell silent. The fans were horrified. After whipping him at least a dozen times with Flair's belt, Sting smashed the World championship belt on the floor.

"I can't believe this!" shouted broadcaster Tony Schiavone. "This can't be happening!"

"No, this is wonderful," countered Bobby Heenan. "Sting has wised up after all these years. This is a beautiful moment. 'Hulkamania' is dead! I love it!"

Before leaving, Sting called Vader and Flair back out. Vader power-bombed Hogan on the arena floor twice. *"Whoooooo!"* Sting shouted before strolling back to the dressing room area. Hogan was taken by ambulance to a local hospital. In what doctors termed a "minor miracle," he suffered no permanent injuries.

Since that fateful day, *PWI* has conducted an investigation and learned that Sting had been thoroughly frustrated by Hogan's stranglehold on WCW; he informed him of that in no uncertain terms in the days following WCW Uncensored in Tupelo, Mississippi.

A source close to Sting told *PWI* that the three-time former World champion confronted Hogan in private after the pay-per-view card, which saw Hogan defeat the combination of Vader and Flair, and Sting lose to Rogers.

The source said that Sting told Hogan he was extremely unhappy with what has occurred in WCW since Hogan's debut nearly one year ago. When Hogan tried to patch things up with him several days later, Sting told Hogan, "You and I are no longer friends, and you better watch your back."

"Like you'd really do something about it, brother," Hogan shot back.

As everyone will recall, Sting welcomed Hogan into WCW and the two became fast friends. Hogan even offered Sting a role on his syndicated television show *Thunder In Paradise*, and Sting had recently competed in a tag team with Randy Savage, another wrestler with close ties to Hogan.

When contacted by *PWI*, a smug Sting, who decided after the incident to stop wearing face paint and to dye his hair black, termed his attack on Hogan "only the beginning," and said things "would get a helluva lot worse real soon." When asked if he would request a match against Hogan, Sting replied, "You figure it out, Sherlock!"

Hogan refused to address the matter directly, saying he was too upset to talk about it. He admitted he and Sting had spoken in the days following the pay-per-view card, but would not reveal the nature of the conversation.

"What Sting said to me was between him and me, brother," Hogan said. "You lose a match, brother, and sometimes you get frustrated and say something or do something you really didn't mean."

But while Sting, Hogan, and WCW officials may not have been forthcoming with words, other wrestlers had plenty to say about the attack.

"I can't believe it," said Savage, who has had his own feuds with Hogan in the past but is, for the moment at least, a close friend of the champion. "I just can't believe it. I still feel like it's just a bad dream. When I came down here, the 'Hulkster' told me I didn't have to worry about this guy stabbing me in the back."

Flair didn't see it the same way.

"This is great!" he exclaimed when contacted by telephone. "I could have told Sting how much of an idiot Hogan was about three years ago. Sting finally smartened up. He finally started looking out for number one."

"I understand how Sting feels," Brutus Beefcake said. "Living in Hogan's shadow is the pits. He did what he had to do. It'll be great for his career in the long run."

Sting might not care about the long run. His contract with WCW expires later this year, and he might want to make one charge at Hogan before leaving the federation. If he beats him for the title, he can sign a new contract. If he doesn't, he can forget about him and perhaps head to the WWF, where he would undoubtedly take over the spotlight.

Turning against Hogan may be the only way for Sting to evict Hogan from WCW and take back a federation that once belonged to him. □

close-up:

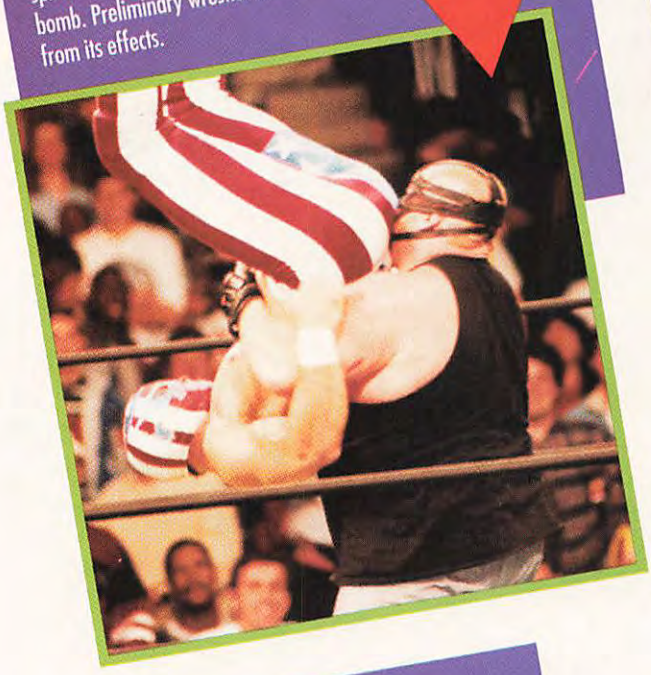
BIG VAN VADER

THREE-TIME FORMER WCW World champion Big Van Vader was born and raised in Lynwood, California ... Played football and wrestled in high school ... Started at three offensive line positions at the University of Colorado ... Was a consensus All-American in 1977 and All-Big Eight in 1976 and '77 ... Played offensive guard and center for the Los Angeles Rams from 1977-1981 ... In 1985, began training under Brad Rheingans for a pro wrestling career ... Debuted in the AWA as the "Baby Bull" ... Had his leg broken by Bruiser Brody ... Became the first American to win the CWA heavyweight title when he beat former AWA World champion Otto Wanz in Denver in 1986 ... On April 24, 1989, won the IWGP heavyweight championship from Shinya Hashimoto ... Was only the second American to win that title (Hulk Hogan was the first) ... Became a three-time IWGP champ when he defeated Tatsumi Fujinami on January 17, 1991, in Yokohama, Japan ... Held the IWGP, CWA, and UWA titles at the same time ... Moved to WCW in January 1992 and impressed manager Harley Race, who quickly signed him to a contract ... Vader and Bam Bam Bigelow captured the IWGP International tag team title from The Great Muta and Hiroshi Hase on March 1, 1992, in Yokohama ... Started feuding with WCW World champion Sting ... On April 12, 1992, he power-bombed Sting, who suffered two cracked ribs and a bruised spleen ... Pinned Sting for his first WCW World title on July 12 in Albany, Georgia ... Sting had to be helped from the ring after Vader power-bombed him ... Lost the World title to Ron Simmons on August 2 in Baltimore, Maryland ... It was one of the most controversial matches in WCW history ... Vader was originally scheduled to wrestle Sting, but Sting had been injured earlier in the card ... Rather than cancel the World title match, WCW Vice President of Wrestling Operations Bill Watts put the names of several top contenders in a hat and pulled out Simmons' name ... Race protested, but Vader didn't say a word ... Simmons won with a powerslam and a pin ... Was rebuffed by Simmons in several rematches ... Took out his frustrations on several wrestlers, including preliminary wrestler Joe Thurman ... Thurman's career was ended when Vader broke his back with a power bomb in October of 1992 ... Made a surprising appearance at Halloween Havoc '92 when he was designated to substitute for U.S. champion Rick Rude in a match against Nikita Koloff ... Defended the belt for Rude by pinning Koloff following a power bomb ... Lost to Sting in the final of the King of Cable tournament at Starrcade '92 ... One day later in Baltimore, Vader regained the World title from Simmons ... After 14 minutes 50 seconds of furiously violent action, Vader caught Simmons with a shoulderbreaker and scored the pin ... Simmons suffered a shoulder injury as a result of the maneuver and was sidelined for more than two months ... Became enraged when Cactus Jack interfered in a match pitting Sting and Dustin Rhodes against him, Barry Windham, and Paul Orndorff at Clash of the Champions XXII ... Lost the belt to Sting on March 11, 1993, in London, England, but bounced back six days later and pinned Sting in Dublin, Ireland ... In the most horrifying incident of his career, Vader power-bombed Cactus Jack onto the concrete floor of Atlanta's Center Stage Theater on April 21 ... Jack was sidelined with a serious concussion and periodic bouts of amnesia ... Was bodyslammed by Davey Boy Smith at Slamboree '93 ... Smith won the match by disqualification when Vader hit him over the head with a chair ... Teamed with Sid Vicious, forming The Masters of the Power Bomb ... Wrestled Cactus Jack in a "Spin The Wheel, Make The Deal" match at Halloween Havoc '93 ... It turned out to be a Texas death match, and Cactus Jack battered Vader from the opening bell ... Vader ultimately won the match when Race stunned Jack with an electric cattle prod ... Originally signed to wrestle Vicious at Starrcade '93, but the match was canceled when Vicious was suspended by WCW after he got into a hotel room brawl with Arn Anderson in England ... Won the battle royal at Battlebowl by eliminating Sting ... Wrestled Ric Flair in the main event of Starrcade '93 ... Flair promised to retire if he didn't win the World title, but he did win it by pinning Vader at 20:38 ... The Boss was the special guest referee for the Vader vs. Flair rematch inside a steel cage at SuperBrawl IV ... During the match, Vader handcuffed The Boss to the cage and delivered a vicious beating ... But Boss escaped and made a controversial ruling that Vader submitted to Flair's figure-four leglock ... Vader still insists he never submitted ... Engaged in a long—though essentially meaningless—feud with The Boss, who changed his name to The Guardian Angel ... Pinned Angel following a moonsault at Spring Stampede ... Later on that pay-per-view card, Vader interfered in the Sting-Rude match and accidentally cost Rude the match ... Afterward, Rude tried to attack Vader ... Vader slipped further into the background when Hulk Hogan signed with WCW last summer ... Continued his feud with The Guardian Angel ... Started to slump after losses to Sting ... Defeated The Guardian Angel and Sting in a triangular match at Fall Brawl '94 that was supposed to make him the top contender to Hulk Hogan's WCW World title ... Vader demanded a match against Hogan, but didn't immediately get one ... Filed a protest with WCW officials ... Took matters into his own hands at Starrcade '94, first by beating Hacksaw Duggan for the U.S. title, then by confronting Hogan in the locker room after the "Hulkster's" victory over Brutus Beefcake ... "Stand up and fight like a man," Vader shouted to Hogan ... Was shocked when Hogan got up after being power-bombed at Clash of the Champions XXX ... That seemed to take away some of Vader's aura of invincibility, and he lost to Hogan at SuperBrawl V ... Flair interfered in the match, preventing a decisive conclusion ... A strap match between Vader and Hogan at WCW Uncensored didn't end decisively, either, as Hogan actually defeated *Flair* by dragging him to all four corners of the ring after the "Nature Boy" again interfered ... Don't bet against Vader eventually beating Hogan for the World title. □

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
BIG VAN VADER
Sadistic Superstar

FAVORITE MANEUVER

Power bomb. It's the gusto that Vader puts into every power bomb that makes it the most dangerous maneuver in wrestling. Vader lifts his helpless opponent to shoulder height, but instead of merely dropping him to the mat, he drives the foe down for a spine-first landing. Cactus Jack was nearly paralyzed by the power bomb. Preliminary wrestler Joe Thurman still hasn't fully recovered from its effects.

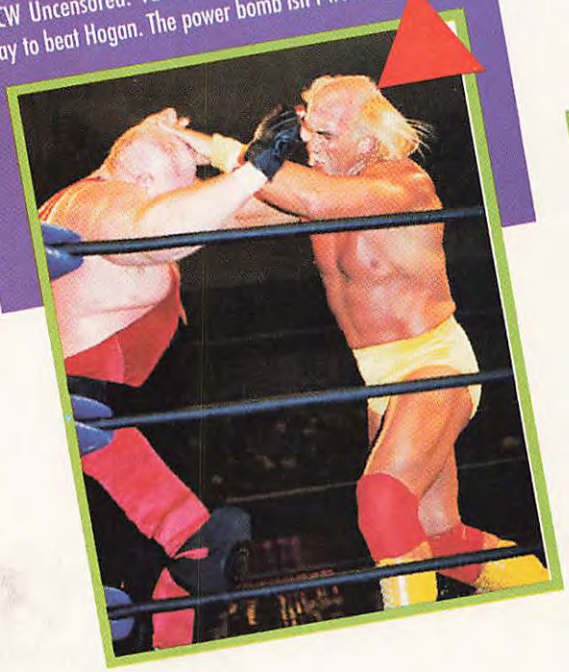


MOST HATED OPPONENT

Cactus Jack. It's one thing to challenge Big Van Vader, it's another thing to turn against him. Jack, of course, had already been termed an outcast by Harley Race's men when he stormed a cage at Clash of the Champions XXII, igniting a feud with Vader. Vader admits there's never been an opponent he was more set on destroying. He has come very close several times, including one frightening incident in which he nearly severed Jack's entire ear.

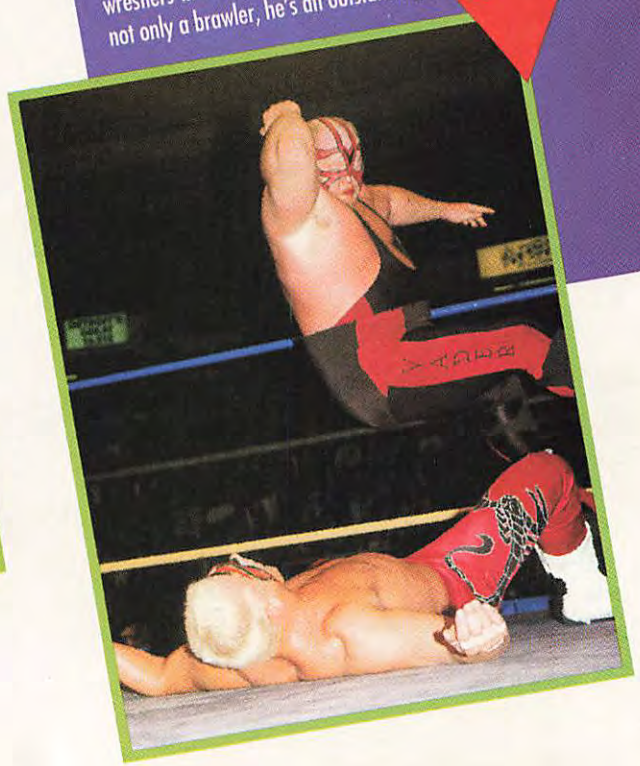
TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Hulk Hogan. Vader knew he was in for a long battle when the "Hulkster" got up after being power-bombed at Clash of the Champions XXX. He was right. The seemingly indestructible Hogan had Vader on the run at SuperBrawl V until Ric Flair interfered, and he embarrassed Vader at WCW Uncensored. Vader is going to have to find a new way to beat Hogan. The power bomb isn't working.

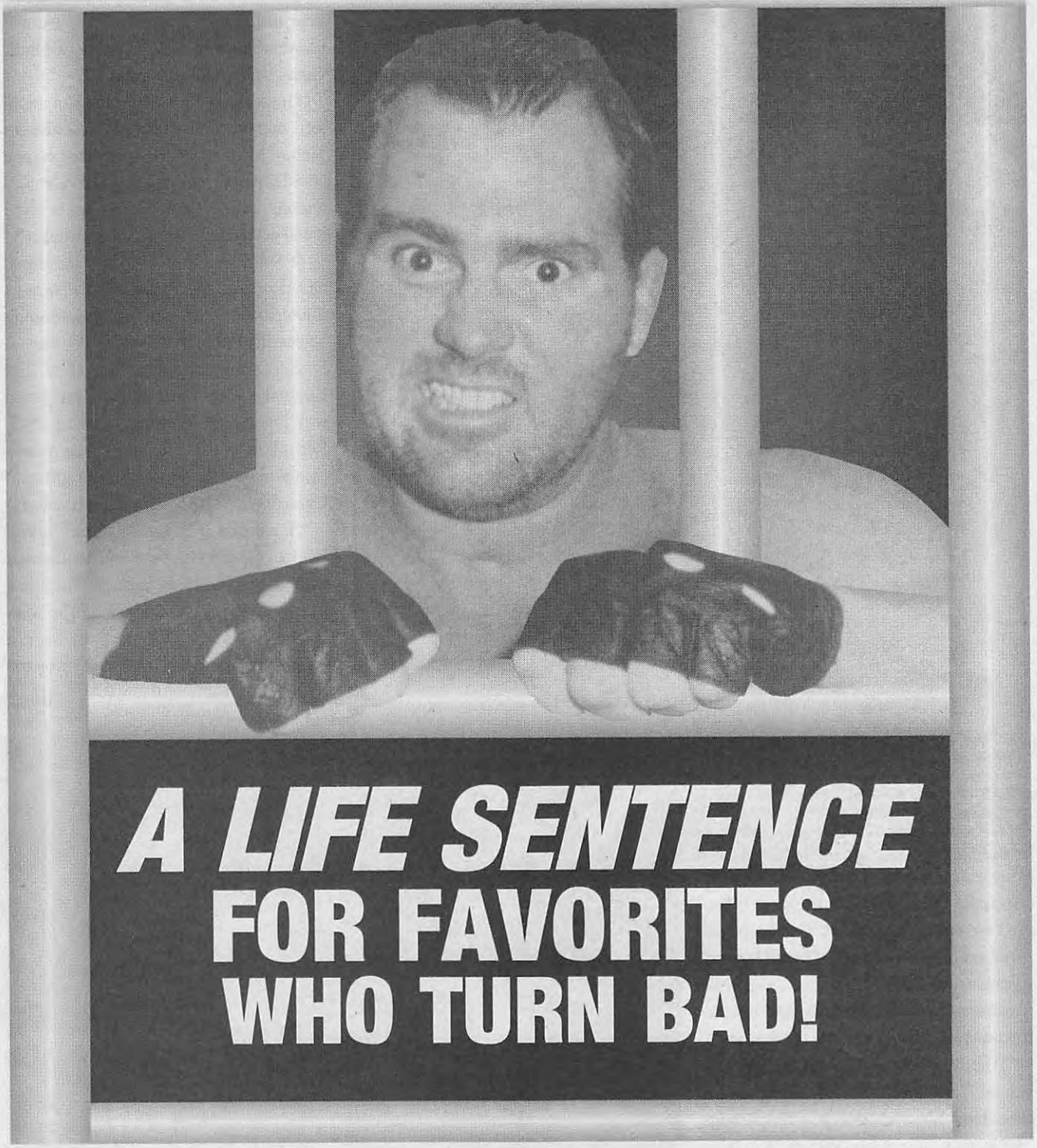


GREATEST MATCH

vs. Sting, July 12, 1992. Vader won the first of his three WCW World titles when he defeated Sting in the main event of The Great American Bash. Previously, Vader had a reputation only as a mad bruiser, not a winner, when he overcame one of the finest wrestlers in the world. With one great victory, Vader proved he's not only a brawler, he's an outstanding wrestler.



PWI LAYS DOWN THE LAW:



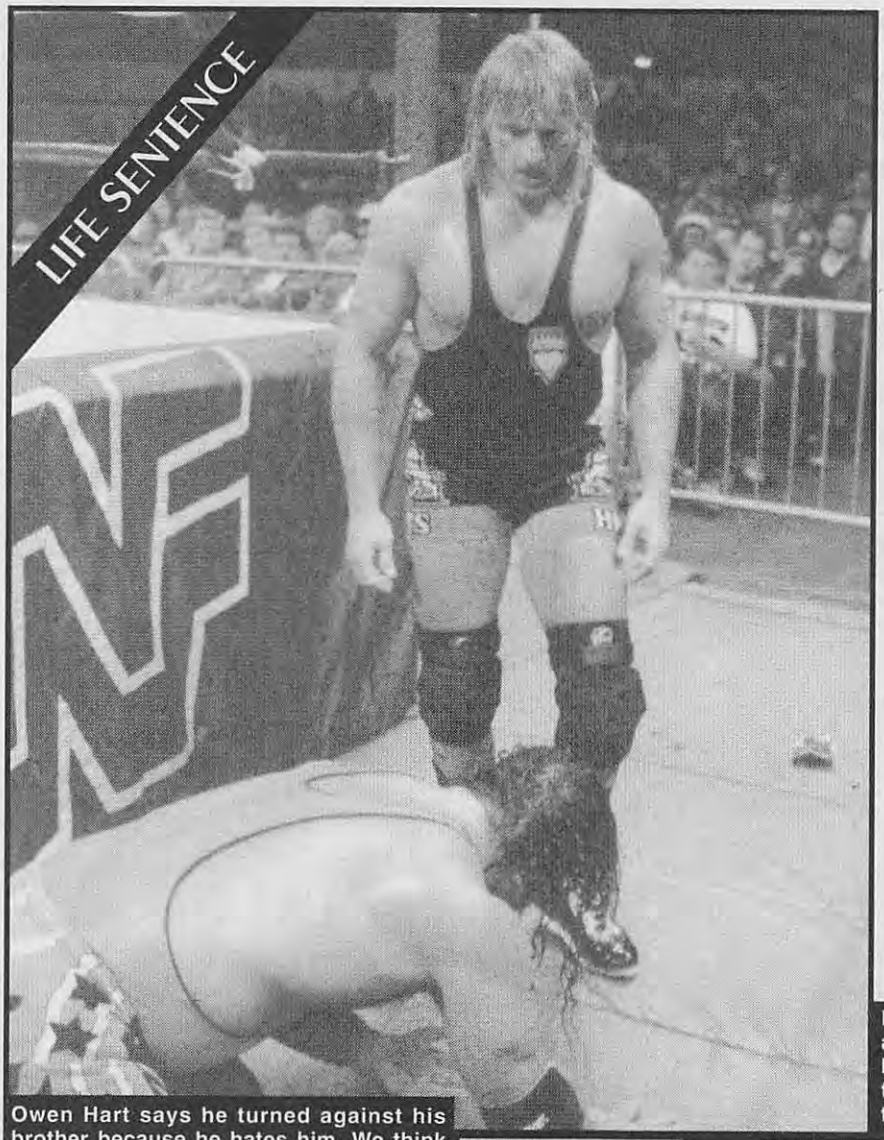
A LIFE SENTENCE FOR FAVORITES WHO TURN BAD!

A wrestler shouldn't be allowed to turn his back on the fans with impunity. We have a proposal that will make fan favorites think twice before becoming rulebreakers

By Stu Saks

HERE AT *PWI*, we take a very serious approach to wrestling. We often wish the athletes we cover in the magazine would do the same.

Ric Flair goes from rulebreaker to fan favorite to rulebreaker and doesn't lose a



Owen Hart says he turned against his brother because he hates him. We think the fact that he wasn't doing well as a fan favorite helped him make the decision. Such a heinous act should have serious long-term consequences.

single iota of his popularity. Brutus Beefcake does essentially the same thing, and no one seems to mind. Tatanka puts a price on his own heritage. Owen Hart targets his own brother and is rewarded with a series of WWF World title shots instead of a suspension ... or even a reprimand.

The list goes on. Shane Douglas. Lex Luger. Jeff Jarrett. Randy Savage. Bob Backlund. Shawn Michaels. Chris Benoit. Sid Vicious. Big Bubba Rogers. We could fill this page with a complete alphabetical listing—from Arn Anderson to Larry Zbyszko—of wrestlers who were once fan favorites, but later became rulebreakers.

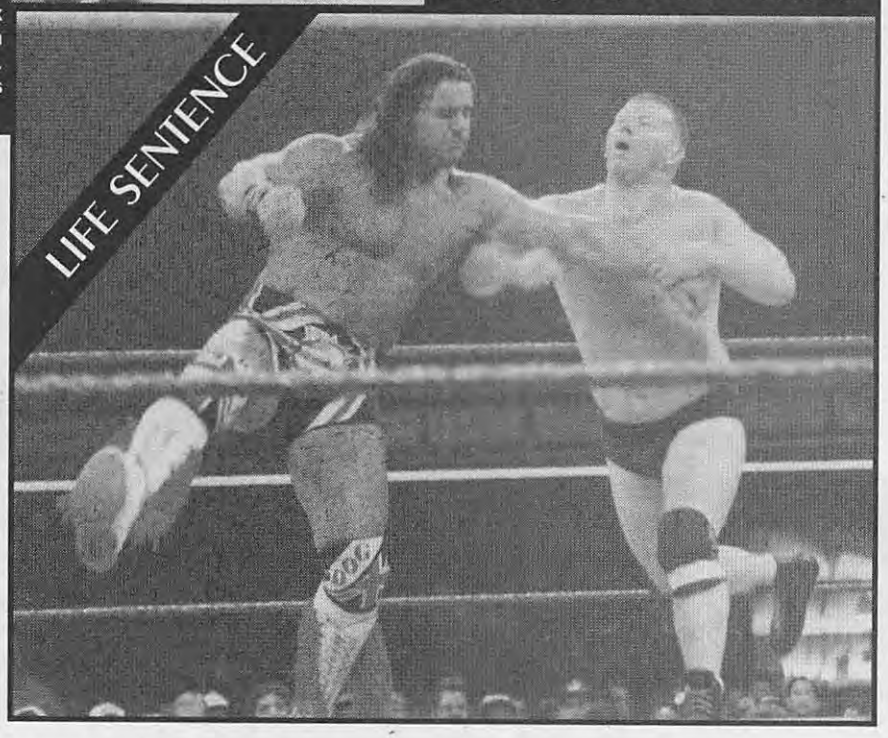
This is not a decision a wrestler should arrive at quickly or easily. It is not the same as changing your mind about what you want for lunch while you are on your way to the deli, or picking a pair of earrings that goes best with the dress you will be wearing to the senior prom. An individual's moral fiber is at stake.

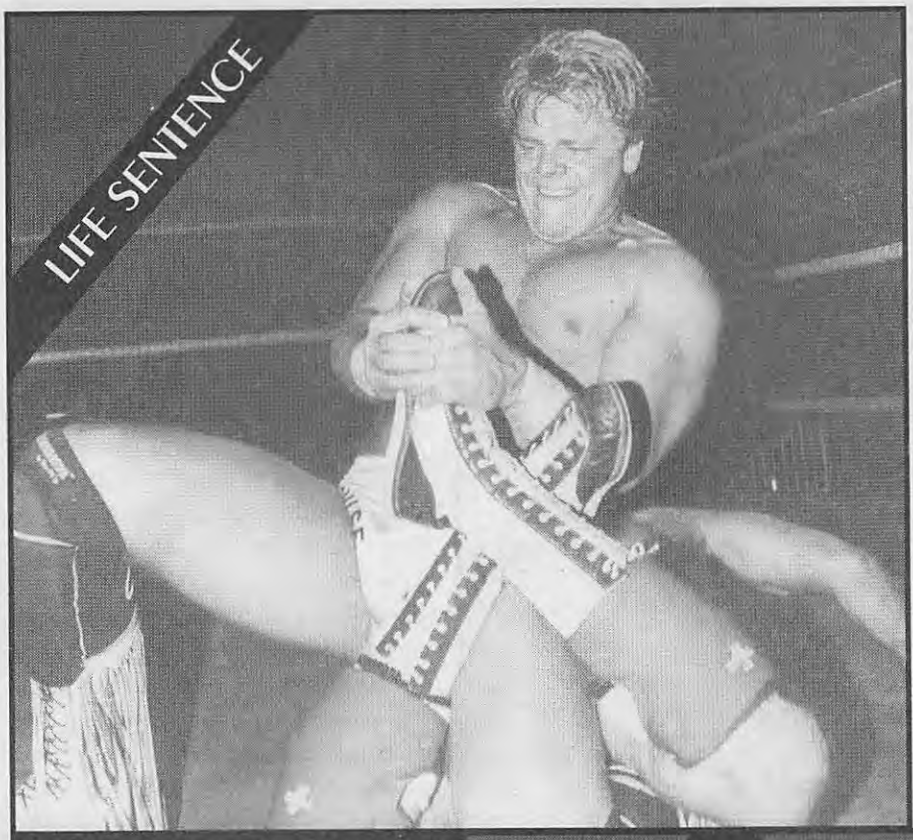
"It seems like it is happening an awful lot," said noted wrestling psychologist Dr. Sidney M. Basil. "The sport has become so success-driven that we have many wrestlers changing their ways just because it will get them that much closer to titles."

It is true that men like Hart, Backlund, and Beefcake have received title shots as rulebreakers after spending years toiling below main-event status as fan favorites. It is also true that men like Hart and Beefcake were once considered proud warriors by the editorial staff of *PWI*. Regardless of the outcome of their matches, their morality was above reproach. Until, of course, they became rulebreakers.

"I wanted a chance at greatness," Beefcake, who has so confused himself with all this switching back and forth that he now wants to be known as The Man With No Name. "I had never been a

Bob Backlund hasn't had second thoughts about transforming himself into a rulebreaker. Maybe he would if he knew the fans would never welcome him back into their good graces, no matter what he did.





Both Shane Douglas (above) and Chris Benoit (right) were once nice guys. Now Douglas is a foul-mouthed ECW champ, while Benoit is bragging about nearly crippling Sabu. We'd bet both will wrestle as fan favorites again eventually.

world heavyweight champion, and being around Hulk Hogan, I saw how champions get treated. I wanted that. I wanted to have that feeling before I got too old to have a chance at winning a major title. Is that so wrong?"

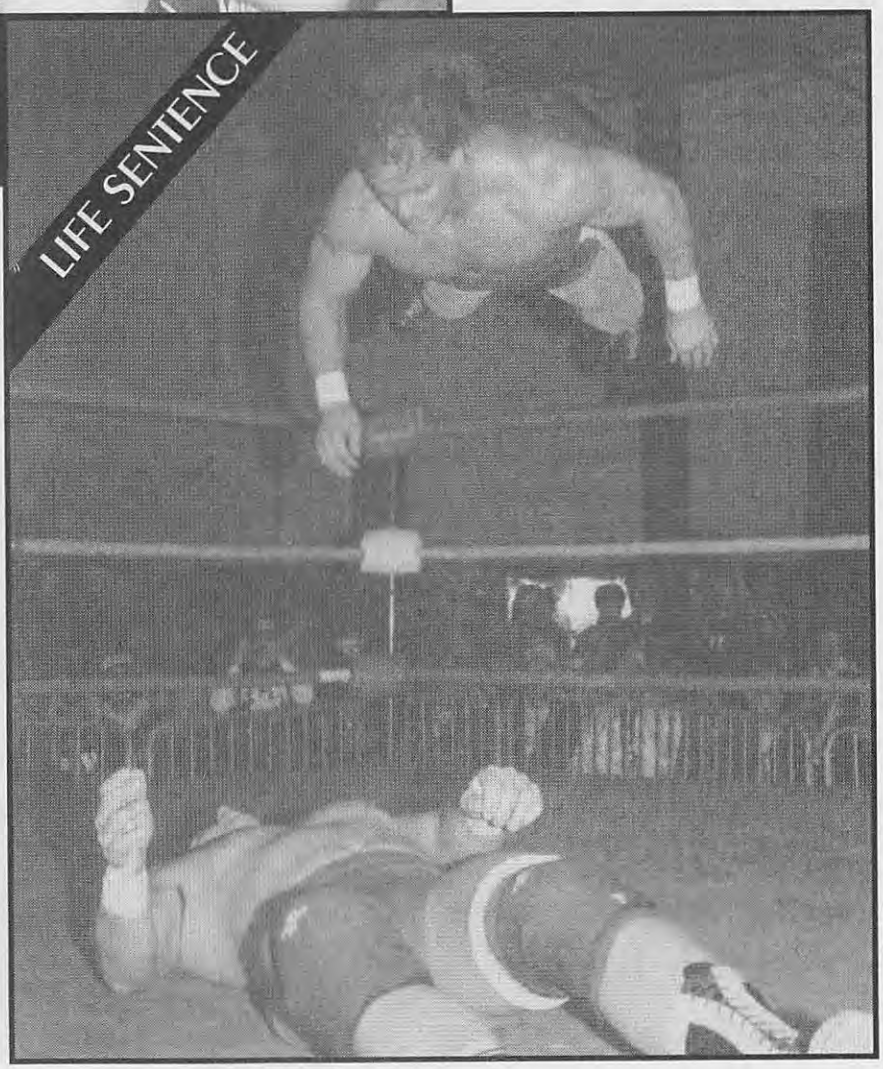
Sorry, Brutus, but it is. Beefcake, Hart, and all the others can rationalize their personality transplants until the end of time. The fact remains that they changed cloaks for personal gain. That is a pretty weak argument in and of itself. When you factor in the lack of respect shown for the sport and the fans, it becomes even weaker.

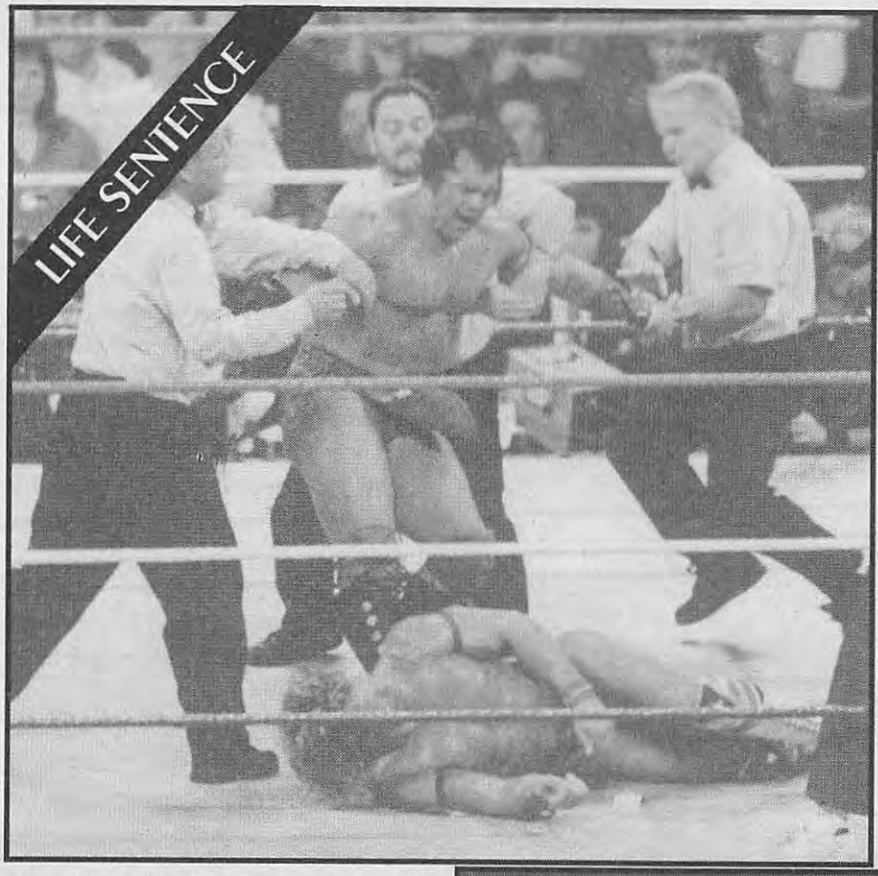
Wrestlers want us to understand the intense pressure they are under to succeed; they like to use that as a safety net to justify rash, thoughtless actions. Sorry, but that line of reasoning doesn't wash here at *PWI*. I have worked alongside Bill Apter for 12 years, and I respect his opinion and judgment more than anyone in the sport. But if he were to reverse field on his editorial stance, he'd better have a real good reason for doing it.

The wrestlers aren't the only ones at fault here. The fans must shoulder some of the blame for their lack of memory. Flair was a fan favorite until Hogan showed up in WCW. Then he immediately went back to his rulebreaking ways. Beefcake, unable to win a major title and perhaps tired of hearing the catcalls from the crowd, will likely try to return to his previous status as a fan favorite. We are even hearing that Owen Hart has grown frustrated with his inability to topple brother Bret and is considering a comeback as a fan favorite.

And the fans continue to welcome their lost heroes back with open arms, instead of punishing them for their transgressions.

If the fans aren't going to admonish the people they call heroes, then we will. *PWI* calls for a life sentence for fan





Tatanka not only turned his back on Lex Luger at SummerSlam '94, he turned his back on all the Native Americans who viewed him as a role model. He should pay dearly for that.

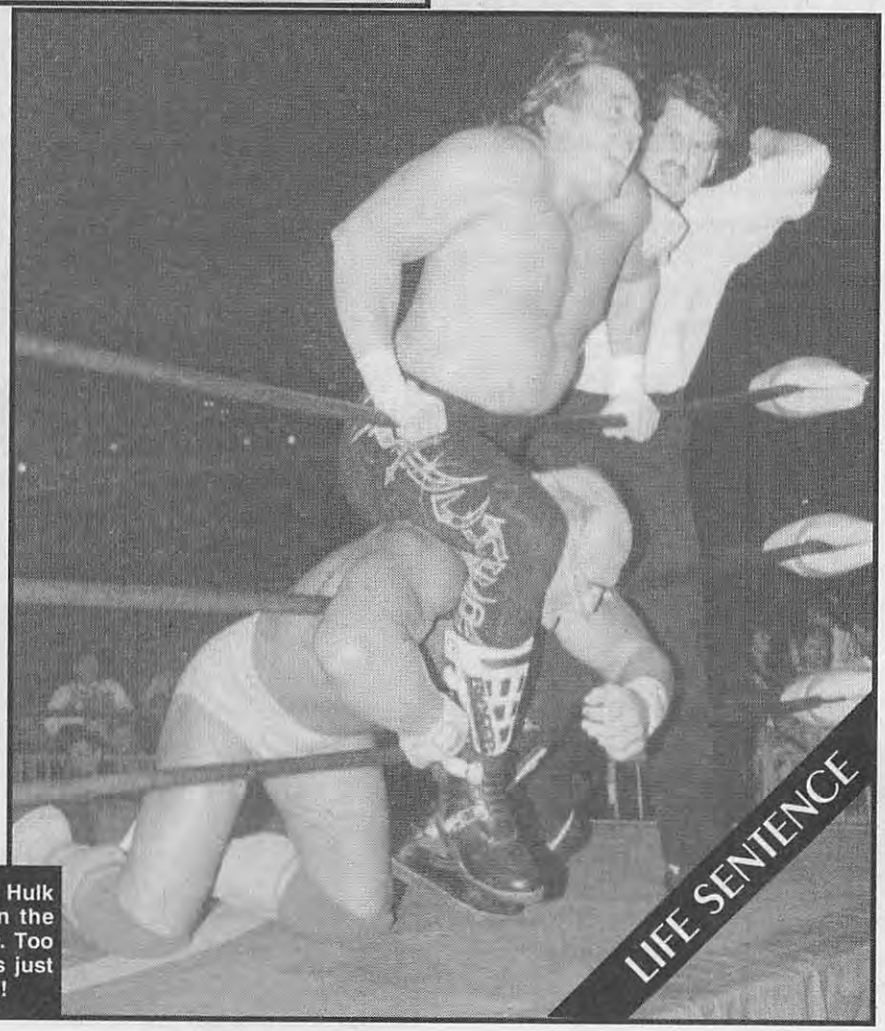
favorites who become rulebreakers. No fines, no penalties, no punishments. Just one simple rule: Once you become a rulebreaker, you are a rulebreaker. For life. No exceptions, no pardons, no special dispensations.

Let's see how quickly Beefcake would go after Hogan if he knew that the decision he was making was one that would haunt him for the rest of his career. Let's see how fast Tatanka would discard his feathers if he knew that he could never again be proud to be a Native American, that he would never again be respected by his people. Let's observe the fervor with which Owen Hart goes after his brother when he knows that it is a lifelong commitment, that his parents will never again welcome him into the family home.

There isn't a light switch for fan favorite and rulebreaker. It can't be turned on and off as whimsically as many of these wrestlers might think. There should be consequences—strong consequences with far-reaching implications.

"It would certainly cut down on the number of turns we've seen, which means I'm not for it," Basil joked. "I'd be out of work."

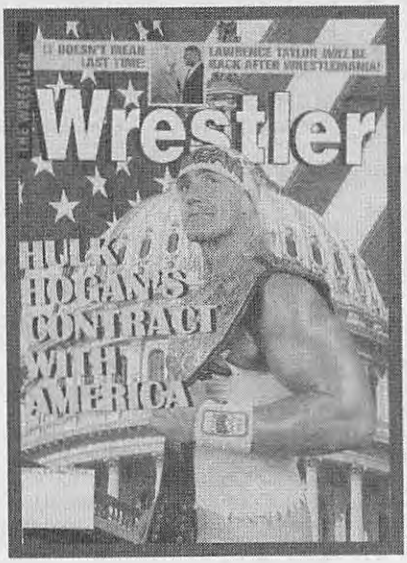
And the wrestlers would be out of options. The staff at *PWI* is not against the idea of certain wrestlers becoming rulebreakers. Without rulebreakers, there would be far less intrigue in the sport. But when a wrestler must choose between becoming a fan favorite or becoming a rulebreaker, he shouldn't make that choice as easily as he chooses between turkey or roast beef for lunch. The physical demands of wrestling have made it a sport with very little forgiveness. It should have an emotional toll of equal value. □



After failing to beat his childhood friend Hulk Hogan, Beefcake does appear to be on the verge of returning to fan favoritism *again*. Too many wrestlers are switching allegiances just to get title shots and advance their careers!

this month in...

THE Wrestler

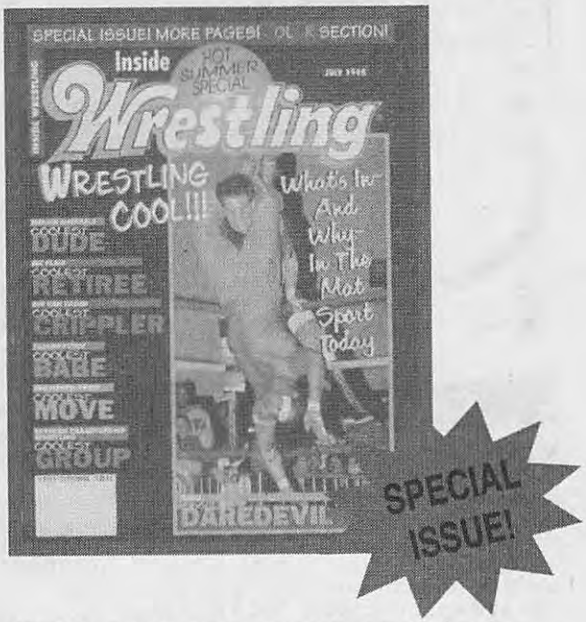


What are the components of **HULK HOGAN's** Contract with America? ... **MARTY JANNETTY** is gearing up for a run at **SHAWN MICHAELS** in the WWF. He prepared for his former tag team partner by going into ECW boot camp! ... **LAWRENCE TAYLOR** says his match against **BAM BAM BIGELOW** at WrestleMania was a one-shot deal. That's not what we're hearing! ... **HULK HOGAN** is trying to resurrect **BRIAN PILLMAN'S** career, but has he actually pushed him toward rulebreaking?

All this—and much more!—in the July 1995 issue of ***The Wrestler***

NOW ON SALE!

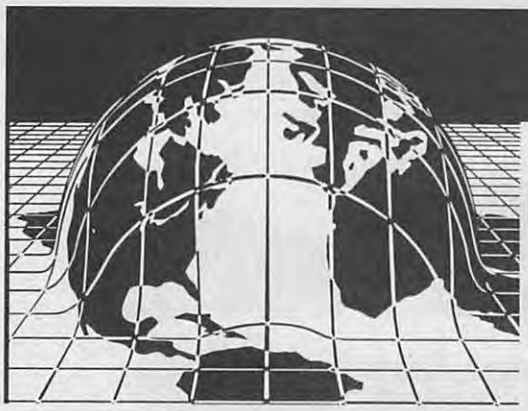
Inside Wrestling



What's cool in the mat sport today? Well, a lot of things are! **SABU** is the coolest daredevil, **TAMARA MURPHY FYTCH** is the coolest babe—and the list goes on and on. Don't miss our special 19-page section of "Wrestling Cool"; we'll also tell you what's not cool! ... **RANDY SAVAGE** and **STING** have formed one of WCW's hottest tag teams, thanks to us! ... **PAUL ROMA** is in the market for a new tag team partner. On the top of his list (believe it or not!) is **ALEX WRIGHT**

All this—and much more!—in the July 1995 issue of ***Inside Wrestling***

NOW ON SALE!



arena reports

The results in "Arena Reports" are culled from a month's worth of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletters. Readers of *PWI Weekly* received these results just days after the cards took place. If you would like to subscribe to *PWI Weekly*, see the ad elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to join professional wrestling's largest network of correspondents, write to: "Arena Report" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

SUN VALLEY—Slammers Wrestling Federation at the Slammers Gym: **The Samoan Kid** defeated **Bruce Beaudine** by disqualification ... **The Gargoyle** defeated **Bill Pearl** ... **Dynamite D** beat **Tyrone Little** ... **Ashley Hudson** won a battle royal ... Heavyweight champion **Jeff Lindberg** defeated **Ashley Hudson**.
(03-19-95)

—Gregg John

FRESNO—WWF at the Convention Center: **Jerry Lawler** beat **The Kid** ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** defeated **The Heavenly Bodies** ... **King Kong Bundy** beat **Davey Boy Smith** ... World Women's champion **Bull Nakano** beat **Alundra Blayze** ... **Bret Hart** beat **Owen Hart** ... **Razor Ramon** & **Diesel** defeated **Shawn Michaels** & **Jeff Jarrett**.
(03-14-95)

—Barry Enders

COLORADO

DENVER—WWF at the Coliseum: **Aldo Montoya** beat **Kwang** ... **Duke Droese** defeated **Mantaur** ... **Henry Godwinn** beat **Doink The Clown** ... **The Bushwhackers** defeated **The Heavenly Bodies** ... **King Kong Bundy** beat **Adam Bomb** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** beat **The Undertaker** by disqualification ... **Bret Hart** defeated **Owen Hart** ... **Diesel** & **Razor Ramon** beat **Jeff Jarrett** & **Shawn Michaels**.
(03-05-95)

—Alex Masters

GEORGIA

CALHOUN—WCF at the WCF Arena: **Rob McBride** & **Cody Gunn** beat **The Lawmen** ... **Major Disaster** & **Iceman** wrestled **Willie B** & **Jerry Cowart** to a draw ... **Willie B** beat **Cody Gunn** by disqualification ... **Chief Little Lin** beat TV champion **Rob McBride** by disqualification ... **Cody Gunn** beat **Larry Santana** ... **David Young** beat **Allen Horn** ... **Lawman II** defeated **Jimmy Strong** ... **Chief Little Lin** beat TV champion **Rob McBride** to win the title.
(03-17-95)

—Marcus Watkins

ROSSVILLE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: **Big John Humphries** beat **Outpatient** ... **The New One Man Gang** pinned **Scotty Fernandez** ... **Rickie Dye** beat **The Black Terminator** ... **Mr. Tennessee** defeated heavyweight champion **Larry Sharpe** in a non-title match ... Tag team champions **Blazing Fury** & **Mark Pain** beat **Big Bubba Humphries** & **Kenny Arden** ... **Frankie Lee**, **Chuck** & **Sam Colt**, & promoter **Doug Watkins** beat **Jimmy Sharpe**, **Roger Sartain**, **The New One Man Gang**, & manager **Mad Jack**. Because of a prematch stipulation, and since Mad Jack was pinned, he received 10 lashes from each member of the winning team.
(03-10-95)

—Bill Needham

ROSSVILLE—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: **Kenny Arden** beat **Big Bubba Humphries** ... **Chuck Colt** beat **Jimmy Sharpe** by disqualification ... **Black Terminator** pinned **Adrian Champagne** ... **Roger Sartain** & **The New One Man Gang** defeated **Frankie Lee** & **The King** ... **Chuck** & **Sam Colt** beat tag team champions **Mark Pain** & **Blazing Fury** in a non-title match.
(03-03-95)

—Bill Needham

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO—WCW at the Rosemont Horizon: **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** & **The Patriot** beat **Steve Austin** & **Lord Steven Regal** ... **Alex Wright** pinned **Paul Roma** ... World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** defeated **The Nasty Boys** in a no-disqualification match ... TV champion **Arn Anderson** beat **Johnny B. Badd** ... **Randy Savage** & **Sting** beat **Avalanche** & **Big Bubba Rogers** ... World champion **Hulk Hogan** beat **Big Van Vader** by countout.
(02-25-95)

—Brett Rude

KANSAS

CHETOPA—Power Zone Wrestling Alliance at the Hornets High School Gym: **Wild Maverick** pinned **Treacherous Phillips Jr.** ... **Super Ninja** beat **J.T. Rocker** ... **Casey Cannon** pinned **TNT** ... **Slash** & **Chains** beat **Chief Red Eagle** & **Yankee Rose** ... **Tom Jones** beat **Super X** ... **Randy Rhodes** pinned **Shawn Summers**.
(03-04-95)

—Clark Peterson

KENTUCKY

WEST LIBERTY—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Morgan City High School: **Boo Bradley** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... Tag team champions **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** defeated **Al Snow** & **Unibomb** by disqualification ... **Tony Anthony** beat **Buddy Landell** ... **The Gangstas** defeated **Boo Bradley** & **Tracey Smothers**.
(03-17-95)

—Mary Hazard

MAINE

PORTLAND—WWF at the Civic Center: **Kwang** defeated **Scott Taylor** ... **Kama** beat **Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly** ... **Hakushi** pinned **The Kid** ... **Eli** & **Jacob Blu** beat **The Headshrinkers** ... **Tatanka** pinned **Aldo Montoya** ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Shawn Michaels** by countout ... **Bret Hart** defeated **Owen Hart** by submission ... **Razor Ramon** beat Intercontinental champion **Jeff Jarrett** by disqualification ... World champion **Diesel** pinned **Bam Bam Bigelow**.
(02-26-95)

—Philip Laine

MARYLAND

PRINCESS ANNE—American Commonwealth Wrestling at Tawes Gym: **Axl Rotten** defeated **Ian Rotten** ... **2 Cold Scorpio** & **Ron Simmons** beat **The Goodfellas** ... **Cactus Jack** defeated **Morgus The Maniac** ... **Dean Malenko** (with **Shane Douglas**) beat **Tasmaniac** ... **Tommy Dreamer** defeated **The Raven**.
(03-18-95)

—Timothy A. Walker

ESSEX—Mid-Eastern Wrestling Federation at Bingo Bill's: **Adrian Hall**, **Bob Starr**, & **Bushwhacker Butch** defeated **Lucifer**, **Stud Lee Osborne**, & **Dino Casanova** ... **Mark Schrader** & **Joe Thunder** beat **Quinn Nash** & **Mike Khoury** ... **The Cat Burglar** beat **Mr. Destiny** ... **D.P. Ferguson** defeated **Johnny Taylor** ... **Mad Dog O'Malley** defeated heavyweight champion **Morgus The Maniac** to win the title ... **Jimmy Snuka** pinned **Metal Maniac** ...Mid-Atlantic heavyweight champion **The Comet** beat **Chad Austin** in a ladder match ... **Johnny Gunn** pinned **Romeo Valentino** ... **Bulldozer Benton** defeated **Kabuki Kid** by submission ... **Axl Rotten** pinned **Kato** ... **Jim Neidhart** defeated **Corporal Punishment**.
(02-26-95)

—Timothy A. Walker

MICHIGAN

DETROIT—WCW at Cobo Arena: TV champion **Arn Anderson** beat **Johnny B. Badd** ... **The Patriot** & **Marcus Alexander Bagwell**

beat **Steve Austin** & **Lord Steven Regal** ... **Alex Wright** beat **Paul Roma** ... World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** beat **The Nasty Boys** in a no-disqualification match ... **Randy Savage** & **Sting** beat **Avalanche** & **Big Bubba Rogers** ... World champion **Hulk Hogan** beat **Big Van Vader** by countout.
(02-26-95)

—Tammy Finn

MISSISSIPPI

TUPELO—WCW Uncensored pay-per-view at the Coliseum: **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** & **The Patriot** beat **Dick Slater** & **Bunkhouse Buck** in 12:31 ... **Blacktop Bully** beat **Dustin Rhodes** in 13:09 in a "King Of The Road" match that took place on a moving 18-wheel flatbed truck ... **Meng** beat **Hacksaw Duggan** in 7:34 in a martial arts match ... **Johnny B. Badd** knocked out **Arn Anderson** in round four of a boxer vs. wrestler match ... **Randy Savage** beat **Avalanche** by disqualification at 11:27 when **Ric Flair**, wearing women's clothing and a wig, ran in and attacked Savage ... **Big Bubba Rogers** pinned **Sting** in 13:32 ... **The Nasty Boys** beat **Harlem Heat** in 15:28 in a "Texas Tornado" match ... **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Big Van Vader** in 15:28 in a strap match when Hogan attacked Ric Flair and dragged *him* to all four corners.
(03-19-95)

—Ben Lee

NEW JERSEY

BELLEVILLE—East Coast Professional Wrestling at the High School: **Devon Storm** beat **Metalhead** ... **The Gravedigger** won a battle royal ... **Rocky Jones** beat **Blitzkrieg** ... **Gino Caruso** defeated heavyweight champion **Kodiak Bear** for the title ... **Inferno Kid** beat **Flex Lavender** ... **The Giant** beat **The Gravedigger** ... **The Executioners** defeated tag team champions **The Blackjacks** for the title.
(03-18-95)

—George Tahinos

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: **Erik Watts** & **Chad Fortune** beat **The Heavenly Bodies** ... **Henry Godwinn** defeated **Barry Horowitz** ... World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **Kama** & **Tatanka** ... **Bob Backlund** beat **Adam Bomb** ... **Diesel** & **Razor Ramon** beat **Jeff Jarrett** & **Shawn Michaels** by countout ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Bam Bam Bigelow** by countout ... **Hakushi** beat **The Kid** ... **Bret Hart** & **Davey Boy Smith** defeated **Owen Hart** & **Jerry Lawler**.
(03-19-95)

—Linda Lester

NORTH CAROLINA

CONCORD—International Wrestling Alliance at the Recreation Center: **Kevin Kirby** beat **Masked Superstar** by disqualification ... **Gary Royal** beat **Speedy Gonzalez** ... **Willie Clay** beat **David Isley** in a loser-leaves-town match ... **The Juicer** wrestled **Rikki Nelson** to a draw ... **The Assassin** & **L.A. Stephens** beat **The Bulldozer** & **Scotty McKeever** ... **Colt Steele** beat **Rick Link** by disqualification.
(03-18-95)

—Dan Parris

KINGS MOUNTAIN—North American Wrestling Alliance at the National Guard Armory: **Scotty Hot Body** defeated **Flaming Youth** ... **Johnny B. Goode** beat **Assassin II** ... **Mad Dog** beat **Buddha** ... **American G.I.** beat **Rick Starr** by disqualification ... **Jeff Victory** beat **George South** ... **The Superstar** & **Thunderfoot** beat **Dozer** & **Buddy Shane**.
(03-11-95)

—Dan Parris

THOMASVILLE—IWA at the National Guard Armory: **Super Mario** beat **Bill Armstrong** ... **Terry Gibson** beat **Frank Parker** ... **The Firemen** beat **Marc Ash** & **The Lumbee Warrior** ... **Dale Porter** defeated **Chuck The Kosher Killer** in a falls-count-anywhere match ... **The Terminators** battled **The Nightstalkers** to a draw ... **Jimmy Valiant** beat **The L.A. Wildman**.
(03-04-95)

—Marcus Watkins

HAMLET—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Russian Assassin** beat **Subzero** ... **Venom** beat **Willow The Wisp** ... **Austin Steele** beat **High Voltage** ... **Bambi** beat **Peggy Lee Leather** ... **Terry Austin** pinned heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion** for the title ... **Damage Inc.** defeated **Star Ryder** & **Flaming Youth** to win the vacant tag team title ... **Randy Sledge** won a battle royal.
(03-04-95)

—Eric Windsor

SPARTA—AIWF at the Elementary School: **King Cobra** beat **The Phantom** ... **Pete Powers** beat **Roadblock Rex** by disqualification ... **Brian Danzig** defeated **Johnny Reb** ... **The Tennessee Intimidators** beat **Chris Windham** & **Electric Angel** ... **The Tennessee Violence Authority** and **The Tennessee Intimidators** & **Major Havoc** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Chris Windham** won a battle royal.
(02-25-95)

—Dean Puckett

OHIO

MARION—WWA "Marion Mania II" at the Fairgrounds Coliseum: **Kid Collins** beat **Thunder Morgan** by disqualification ... **Sivi Afa** pinned **J.T. Lightning** ... Junior heavyweight champion **Jim McPherson** beat **Ed Atlas** ... Heavyweight champion **Nikolai Volkoff** and **Frank Finnegan** wrestled to a double-countout ... **Jimmy Snuka** and **Abdullah The Butcher** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Doink The Clown** pinned **Metal Maniac**.
(03-18-95)

—Jeff Gorman

SPRINGFIELD—International Wrestling Federation at the Freedom Road Center: **Savannah Slim** beat heavyweight champ **Victor Vicious** by disqualification ... Light heavyweight champ **Jesse Salica** pinned **The Texas Ranger** ... Tag team champions **Kenny Hendrix** & **The Wrecker** wrestled **Sean Casey** & **Doink The Clown** to a double-disqualification ... **The Gravedigger** (managed by **The Seeker Of Souls**) beat **Bo Dacious** ... **Hollywood Hubie** & **Savannah Slim** beat **Bull Miller** & **Victor Vicious** ... **Jesse Salica** beat **The Gravedigger** in a casket match ... **The Dark Patriot** beat heavyweight champion **Victor Vicious** to win the belt ... **Dave Secrist** & **Sean Casey** beat **Randy Rogers** & **Bo Dacious** ... **Hollywood Hubie** & **Savannah Slim** beat tag team champions **Kenny Hendrix** & **The Wrecker** for the belts ... **Bull Miller** beat **Victor Vicious** in a barbed-wire match.
(03-04-95)

—Jeff Gorman

OREGON

PORTLAND—Pacific Championship Wrestling at the Mount Scott Community Center: **Larry Oliver** wrestled **Ole Olsen** to a draw ... **Buddy Wayne** beat **Bart Sawyer** ... **The Grappler** defeated heavyweight champion **"Mean" Mike Miller** by disqualification ... **Lou Andrews** beat **Sumito** ... **Rageman** beat **Moondog Moretti** ... **The Bodyguard** beat **Bart Sawyer** by countout.
(03-11-95)

—Valerie Almond

PENNSYLVANIA

NEW CASTLE—Steel City Wrestling at the High School: Tag team champions **Black Cat** & **Lou Marconi** beat **Frank Stalletto** & **Future Shock** ... **T.C. Reynolds** beat junior heavyweight champion **Lord Zoltan** by disqualification ... **Johnny Gunn** pinned **Sheriff Steele** ... **Cactus Jack** defeated heavyweight champion **T. Rantula** to win the title ... **Tex Monroe** beat **Brian Rollins** by disqualification when **Rick Matrix** hit Monroe with a rain gutter ... NWA champion **Dan Severn** beat **Benson Lee** ... **Ray Roberts** beat **Rick Matrix** in a street fight.
(03-19-95)

—Jeff Gorman

PHILADELPHIA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the ECW Arena: **Mikey Whipwreck** beat **Jason** ... **Ron Simmons** pinned **Hack Myers** ... **Tommy Dreamer** beat **Tony Stetson** ... **Tommy Dreamer** beat **Johnny Hotbody** ... **Tommy Dreamer** beat **Steve Richards** ... **The Raven** beat **Tommy Dreamer** ... **2 Cold Scorpio** pinned TV champion **Dean Malenko** to win the title ... **Axl Rotten** defeated **Ian Rotten** in an anything-goes strap match ... **Public Enemy** defeated **The Pit Bulls** ... **Sabu** beat **Mikey Whipwreck** by submission ... **Terry Funk** & **The Sandman** (with **Woman**) beat **Cactus Jack** & **Shane Douglas**.
(03-18-95)

—Bart Orkline

PHILADELPHIA—World Wide Wrestling Alliance at the Boys Club: **Super Nova** defeated **Rick Ratchet** ... **Nomad** defeated **Maverick** ... **Ace Darling** and **The Rockin' Rebel** wrestled to a no-contest ... **The Diamond Express** and **Siva Afa** & **Harley Lewis** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... **Frankie "Third Degree" Burns** defeated **Kiki Samoan** in a midget match ... **Chief Dancing Wolf** beat **Johnny Handsome** by countout ... **Jimmy Snuka** beat **Metal Maniac** ... Intercontinental champion **Glenn Osbourne** and **Doink The Clown** wrestled to a double-disqualification.
(03-04-95)

—Dan Haney

PHILADELPHIA—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the ECW Arena: **The Pit Bulls** beat **Chad Austin** & **Joel Hartgood** ... **Jason** & **Paul Lauria** beat **Hack Myers** & **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **2 Cold Scorpio** pinned **Hector Guerrero** ... **Axl Rotten** pinned **Ian Rotten** in a baseball-bat-on-a-pole match ... Heavyweight champion **Shane Douglas** beat **Marty Jannetty** ... **Dean Malenko** & **Chris Benoit** beat tag team champions **Sabu** & **Tasmaniac** (with **Paul E. Dangerously** and **911**) to win the belts ... **Cactus Jack** pinned **D.C. Drake**.
(02-25-95)

—Bart Orkline & David Frederick

PITTSBURGH—Steel City Wrestling at Plum Senior High School: **Future Shock** pinned **Lou Marconi** ... **Ray Roberts** beat **Brian Rollins** ... Junior heavyweight champion **Lord Zoltan** defeated **T.C. Reynolds** ... **Matt Borne** beat **Sheriff Steele** ... **Black Cat** beat **Frank Stalletto**

... Heavyweight champion **T. Rantula** and **Johnny Gunn** wrestled to a double-countout ... NWA champion **Dan Severn** beat **Benson Lee** by submission ... **Lou Marconi** & **Black Cat** beat tag team champions **Frank Stalletto** & **Future Shock** to win the belts.
(03-17-95)

—Jeff Gorman

JIM THORPE—Extreme Championship Wrestling at Flagstaff: **The Raven** pinned **Hack Myers** ... **911** beat **Johnny Hotbody** & **Tony Stetson** in a handicap match ... TV champion **Dean Malenko** pinned **Tasmaniac** ... **Public Enemy** beat **2 Cold Scorpio** & **Ron Simmons** ... **Cactus Jack** pinned **The Sandman** (with **Woman**) in a falls-count-anywhere match ... Heavyweight champion **Shane Douglas** pinned **Tommy Dreamer**.
(03-17-95)

—Bart Orkline

DOWNINGTOWN—World Wide Wrestling Alliance at the Marketplace: **Hard Rock Hamilton** won a battle royal ... **Dan Hess** defeated **Bobby Piper** ... Junior heavyweight champion **Ace Darling** defeated **Sniper** ... **The Rockin' Rebel** defeated **Rick Ratchet** ... **Derrick Domino** & **Hard Rock Hamilton** beat **Rolling Thunder** ... **Jack Hammer** defeated **Overlord** ... Intercontinental champion **Glenn Osbourne** defeated **Doink The Clown** by disqualification ... **Siva Afa** & **Super Nova** beat **The New Blackjacks**.
(03-03-95)

—Dan Haney

SOUTH CAROLINA

GREER—Pro Wrestling Federation at the National Guard Armory: **Russian Assassin** defeated **Moon Daddy** ... **Johnny Dollar** defeated **The Playboy** ... **Chris Hamrick** beat **Scott Powers** by disqualification ... **Austin Steele** defeated **Randy Sledge** ... **Star Ryder** & **Flaming Youth** defeated **The Road Hogs** ... **Italian Stallion** beat heavyweight champion **Terry Austin** by disqualification ... **Star Ryder** won a battle royal.
(03-09-95)

—Wally Noyles

INMAN—Pro Wrestling Federation at the Armory: **Johnny Dollar** beat **Max Miles** ... **Tyrone Knox** beat **Greg Hart** by disqualification ... **San Antonio Rose** beat **Leilani Kai** ... **Scotty Powers** & **Too Hott Thomas** beat **Flaming Youth II** & **Chief Jay Eagle** ... **Terry Austin** beat **Chris Hamrick** ... Heavyweight champ **Italian Stallion** beat **Russian Assassin** ... **Flaming Youth** won a battle royal.
(03-03-95)

—Dan Parris

TEXAS

DALLAS—NWA at the Sportatorium: **Mike Davis** defeated **Ray Edwards** ... **Guido Falcone** & **Vito Mussolini** beat **Awesome Kong** & **King Kong** ... **Black Bart** beat **Killer Brooks** in a taped-fist match ... **Tony Morris** beat **John Hawk** by disqualification ... **Sam Houston** beat **Rod Price** in a Texas death match.
(03-11-95)

—Rodney Parks

AUSTIN—Lone Star Wrestling at the Civic Center: **Danny Rose** beat **Ghost Rider** ... **Al Dog** defeated **Bob Steele** ... **Nick Golden** beat **Cobra** ... **Misty Michaels** beat **Lady Erika** ... **Gladiator** beat heavyweight champion **Tarzan Taylor** to win the belt ... **Rick Garren** defeated **Adrian Steele** ... **Dusty Wolfe** defeated **Bubba** ... **Action Jackson** beat **Killer Brooks** in a street fight ... **Chris Adams** defeated **Jim Garvin** ... **Michael Hayes** & **Terry Gordy** beat **High Voltage**.
(02-23-95)

—Brett Wolfe

TENNESSEE

KNOXVILLE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Civic Coliseum: **Killer Kyle** defeated **Boo Bradley** ... Tag team champions **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **Al Snow** & **Unibomb** ... Heavyweight champion **Bobby Blaze** beat **Buddy Landell** by disqualification ... **The Gangstas** beat **Bob Armstrong** & **Tracey Smothers** ... **Tony Anthony** pinned **Buddy Landell** in a steel cage match.
(03-19-95)

—Bill Needham

KNOXVILLE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the Civic Coliseum: **Bobby Blaze** defeated **Bryan Logan** ... **The Gangstas** defeated **Scott Armstrong** & **Tracey Smothers** ... **Boo Bradley** beat **Chris Candido** in a loser-leaves-town dog-collar match ... Tag team champions **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **Al Snow** & **Unibomb** by disqualification ... **Bobby Blaze** pinned heavyweight champion **Jerry Lawler** to win the belt ... **Bobby Blaze** pinned **Buddy Landell** ... **The Heavenly Bodies** & **Jim Cornette** beat **The Gangstas** & **D-Lo Brown**.
(02-26-95)

—Bill Needham

MARYVILLE—United Atlantic Wrestling at the Tennessee National Guard Armory: **Johnny Raynor** beat **The Assassin** ... **Nighthawk** beat **Steve Hart** ... **Blue Ranger** pinned **Mike Powers** ... Tag team champions **Eddie Golden** & **Stan Lee** beat **Eight-Ball Jones** & **Anthony Michaels** ... Heavyweight champion **Tim Horner** pinned **The Mongolian Stomper**.
(03-18-95)

—Bill Needham

NASHVILLE—USWA at the Fairgrounds Sports Arena: **Jack Hammer** beat **Scott Studd** ... **Cory Williams** beat **Pete Dianotto** ... **Gorgeous George III** beat **Chris Canyon** ... **The Moondogs** beat **Jack Hammer** & **Crusher Bones** ... Heavyweight champion **Bill Dundee** beat Southern champion **Brian Christopher** in a bullrope match ... Tag team champions **PG-13** beat **Tommy Rich** & **Doug Gilbert** in a steel cage match.
(03-18-95)

—Tony Barrera

NASHVILLE—USWA at the Fairgrounds Sports Arena: **Miss Texas** beat **Susan Sapphire** in a street fight ... **Crusher Bones** & **Big Daddy Cyrus** wrestled **The Moondogs** to a double-disqualification ... Southern champion **Brian Christopher** beat heavyweight champion **Bill Dundee** in a non-title "chain-on-a-pole" match ... **PG-13** beat **Tommy Rich** & **Gorgeous George III**.
(03-04-95)

—Janice Hodson

ALCOA—All-State Wrestling at the Green Acres Flea Mall: **Super Mario** beat **Beau James** ... **Danny Cooley** beat **Lynn Montana** ... Tag team champions **Lone Star** & **Rick Conners** wrestled **Bobby B** & **Dennis Coates** to a double-disqualification ... **The Trinity Kid** defeated light heavyweight champion **Charlie Long** for the title ... **Tony Prichard** beat **Regulator Steel** ... **Regulator Stone** defeated **Tony Anthony** by disqualification.
(03-16-95)

—Bill Needham

ALCOA—All State Wrestling at the Green Acres Flea Market: **Lynn Montana** pinned **Doctor Dan** ... **Regulator Steel** beat **The Trinity Kid** ... Light heavyweight champion **Charlie Long** beat **Shogun** ... Tag team champions **Lone Star** & **Rick Conners** defeated **Bobby B** & **Dennis Coates** ... Heavyweight champion **Tony Prichard** pinned **Regulator Stone**.
(03-02-95)

—Bill Needham

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Jack Hammer** & **Scott Studd** wrestled to a draw ... **Gorgeous George III** beat **Chris Canyon** ... **Spellbinder** defeated **Reggie B. Fine** ... **The Moondogs** beat **Crusher Bones** & **Big Daddy Cyrus** by disqualification ... **Miss Texas** beat **Sweet Georgia Brown** in an "I Quit" match ... Heavyweight champion **Bill Dundee** beat Southern champion **Brian Christopher** in a double-bullwhip match ... **PG-13** beat tag team champions **Doug Gilbert** & **Tommy Rich** in a steel cage match to win the belts. Had PG-13 lost, they would have had to leave the USWA for five years.
(03-13-95)

—Mark Mitchell

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Tony Williams** defeated **Sgt. Victor** ... **Scott Studd** beat **The Chosen One** ... **Spellbinder** beat **Reggie B. Fine** ... **Reggie B. Fine** won a $1,000 six-man tag team elimination match ... **The Moondogs** defeated **Crusher Bones** & **Big Daddy Cyrus** ... **Miss Texas** defeated **Sweet Georgia Brown** & **Susan Sapphire** in a handicap match. As the result of a prematch stipulation, Sapphire must now leave the USWA ... **Bill Dundee** won a double-elimination, triple-threat match, beating both **Brian Christopher** & **Jerry Lawler** ... **Tommy Rich** & **Gorgeous George III** beat **PG-13**. As the result of a prematch stipulation, **Wolfie D** and **J.C. Ice** had their heads shaved.
(03-06-95)

—Mark Mitchell

CARRYVILLE—Tennessee Mountain Wrestling at the Elementary School: **Rick Conners** defeated **Tony Prichard** ... **Regina Hale** pinned Women's champion **Candi Divine** in a non-title match ... **Denny Cooley** & **G.I. Joe** beat tag team champions **The World Famous Spoilers** in a non-title bout ... **Keith Hart** wrestled **Chris Powers** to a double-countout ... **Chris Reed** beat heavyweight champion **Deke Rivers** by disqualification.
(03-09-95)

—Bill Needham

FAIRVIEW—Cumberland Wrestling Council at the Young Country Barn: **Kevin Acres** pinned **The Soldier Of Fortune** ... **The High Plains Drifter** defeated **Rick Roberts** by countout ... **Steve Stakk** defeated **Hollis Gibson** ... **Keith Hart** wrestled **Killer Kyle** to a double-disqualification ... **Kevin Acres** won a $1,000 pole battle royal.
(03-06-95)

—Bill Needham

MORRISTOWN—United Atlantic Wrestling at the Talley Ward Building: **Diamond Dave** pinned **Steve Hart** ... **Johnny Raynor** beat **The Assassin** ... **The Crow** pinned **Kendo** ... **Mongolian Stomper** beat **Eight-Ball Jones** ... **Eddie Golden** & **Stan Lee** defeated **Predator** & **Viper** to win the inaugural UAW tag team title.
(03-04-95)

—Bill Needham

FALL BRANCH—Southern States Wresting at the Sampson Center: **Mike Samson** beat **Country Gentleman** ... **Roger Anderson** beat **David O** ... **Chic White** & **The Tennessee Equalizer** wrestled tag team champions **Eddie Bruiser** & **Danny Christian** to a draw ... **Beau James** (with **Peaches**) wrestled **Frank "The Tank" Parker** to a double-disqualification.
(03-03-95)

—Tonia Stevens

VIRGINIA

CHILHOWIE—Smoky Mountain Wrestling at the High School: **Boo Bradley** beat **D-Lo Brown** ... Tag team champions **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** beat **Al Snow** & **Unibomb** by disqualification ... **Tony Anthony** beat **Buddy Landell** by disqualification ... **Mustafa Saed** beat **Tracey Smothers**.
(03-04-95)

—Alfie Beruck

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

JOLIETTE, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at Joliette College: **Golem The Giant** defeated **The Cannibal** ... **Lucifer, The Ninja,** & **Alexander The Magnificent** beat **Cowboy, Syl Dancer,** & **Boris Khrushchev** ... **Frank Blues** defeated **Iceman** ... **Crazy Eddie** beat **Black Bear** by disqualification ... **The Crazy Dragons** defeated tag team champions **Power** & **Speed** to win the title.
(03-18-95)

—Bertrand Hebert

JOLIETTE, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at Joliette College: **Lucifer** beat **The Cannibal** ... **Iceman** defeated **The Ninja** ...**Frank Blues** beat **Alexander The Magnificent** ... Tag team champions **Power** & **Speed** beat **Golem The Giant** & **Phil Belanger** ... **Chameleon** defeated **Boris Khrushchev** ... **Crazy Eddie** defeated Inter-City champion **Black Bear** to win the title.
(03-11-95)

—Bertrand Hebert

TORONTO, ONTARIO—WWF at Maple Leaf Gardens: **Kwang** beat **Aldo Montoya** ... **Henry Godwinn** defeated **Barry Horowitz** ... World Women's champion **Bull Nakano** pinned **Alundra Blayze** ... **Bret Hart** beat **Owen Hart** in a no-holds-barred match ... **King Kong Bundy** beat **Davey Boy Smith** ... **Eli** & **Jacob Blu** beat **The Headshrinkers** ... **The Undertaker** defeated **Kama** by disqualification ... **Diesel** & **Razor Ramon** beat **Shawn Michaels** & **Jeff Jarrett**.
(03-18-95)

—Steve Argintaru

CALGARY, ALBERTA—Canadian Rocky Mountain Wrestling at the Victoria Park Community Center: **Johnny Coultrain** beat **Kriss Kramer** ... **Steve Wilde** beat **Super Kungo** ... **Black Bart** defeated **Jason Helton** ... **Steve Gillespie** beat North American mid-heavyweight champion **Steve Rivers** to win the title ... **Rick Titan** & **Freeze** beat **Johnny Smith** & **Jerry Morrow** by disqualification.
(02-24-95)

—Ryan Daniels

JAPAN

MATSUYAMA—New Japan at Matsuyama Center: **Norio Honaga** beat **Tatsuhito Takaiwa** ... **Osamu Kido** beat **Black Cat** ... **Black Tiger** & **Wild Pegasus** beat **Yuji Nagata** & **Manabu Nakanishi** ... **Koji Kanemoto** & **Gran Hamada** beat **El Samurai** & **Shimjiro Otani** ... **Riki Choshu** & **Takayuki Iizuka** beat **Tony St. Clair** & **Mucho Rambo** ... **The Nasty Boys** beat **Hiroshi Hase** & **Tadao Yasuda** ... **Shinya Hashimoto, Kensuke Sasaki,** & **Junji Hirata** beat **Masa Chono, Hiroyoshi Tenzan,** & **Hiro Saito**.
(03-16-95)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

TOKYO—IWA at Korakuen Hall: **Cynthia Moreno** defeated **Tomoe Araya** ... **Yuji Sugawara** beat **Keizo Matsuda** ... **Crypt Keeper** defeated **Keisuke Yamada** ... **Silver King** & **El Texano** beat **Yoshihiro Tajiri** & **Takashi Okano** ... **The Headhunters** beat **Kendo Nagasaki** & **Iceman** ... **Hiroshi Ono** & **Shoji Nakamaki** defeated **Cactus Jack** & **Leatherface** in a "barbed-wire-thumbtacks" death match.
(03-07-95)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY
MAY

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON—WWWF at the National Arena: **Bruno Sammartino** defeated **Dr. Bill Miller** to retain the World title ... **Betty Boucher** & **Fabulous Moolah** defeated **Gloria Colon** & **Sue Dorsey** in a best-of-three-falls bout ... **Gorilla Monsoon** beat **Manuel Soto** & **Angelo Savoldi** in a handicap match.
(05-10-68)

—PWI archives

HAWAII

HONOLULU—At the Civic Auditorium: **Tom Rice, Lord Layton,** & **Hans Schnabel** defeated **Rikidozan, Sammy Berg,** & **Toyonobori** in a best-of-three-falls match ... **Al Lolotai** defeated **The Great Zorro** ... **Jack Claybourne** defeated **Rocky Brown**.
(05-13-57)

—PWI archives

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: **Sonny Boy Hayes** & **The Tahiti Kid** beat **Sky Low Low** & **Little Brutus** ... **Jimmy Valiant** beat **Vincente Pometti** ... **Manuel Soto** defeated **Juan Caruso** ... **Beautiful Bobby** beat **Mike Pappas** ... **Bob Roop** beat **Akim Manuka** ... **Eddie Graham** wrestled to a draw with **Chief Jay Strongbow** ... **Luke Graham** defeated **Gorilla Monsoon** ... **Pedro Morales** defeated **Tarzan Tyler** to retain the World title.
(05-24-71)

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(Continued from page 23)

it this way: We don't want to. When we want to, we'll come. Until then, we're staying put. But when we arrive, we're not going to send out any flyers. You'll know we're there.

MANKIEWICZ: Animal, a few months ago, you seconded Hawk for a match in Japan, and interfered when he was wrestling Scott Norton. Why would you do something like that?

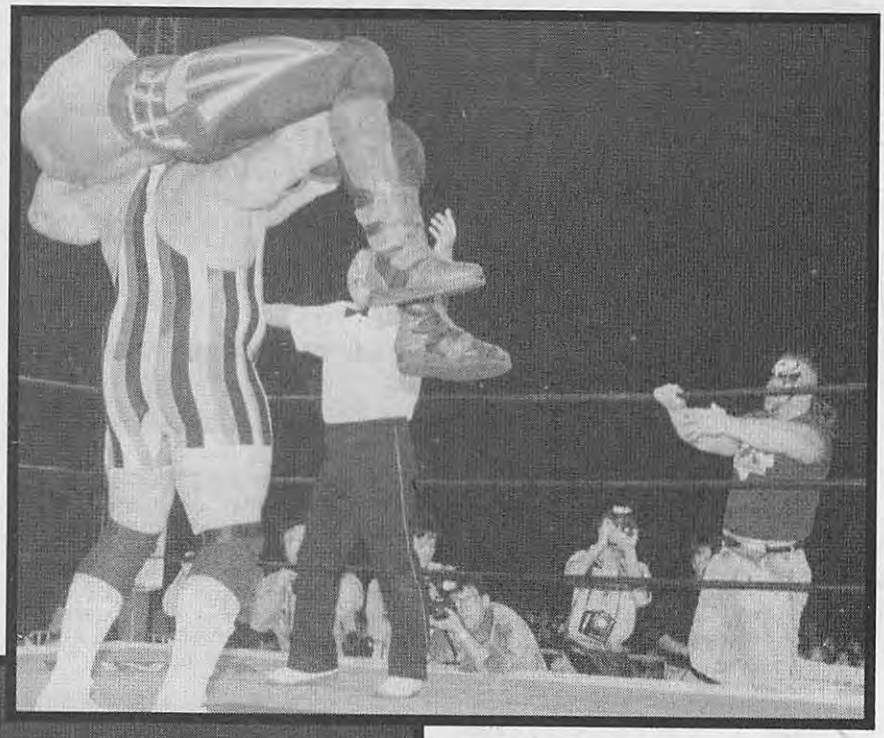
ANIMAL: Because I felt like it. Hawk didn't need my help, but I thought I'd show the people how great a team the Warriors are, even when I'm not wrestling. I know Hawk had lots of great partners while I was away, but I'm the best. He knows it, and I know it.

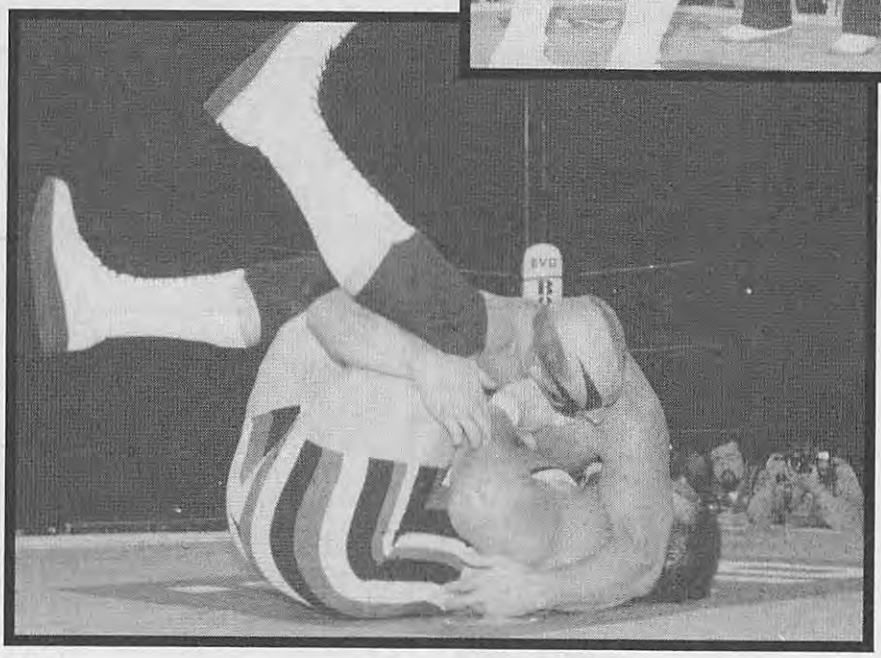
ROSENBAUM: Do you agree with that, Hawk?

HAWK: You heard the man.

APTER: The rumor going around is that the only reason you guys haven't returned is that Animal's back isn't 100 percent, and it never will be. Care to comment on that?

ANIMAL: Yeah. I don't like rumors, and I don't like people who spread them. If they have a question, they can come right to me. The fact is that my back isn't quite 100 percent, and it probably never will be, but that's not going to keep me out of the ring. Who ever heard of an elite athlete who's in 100 percent good health? Football players are getting iced down all the time. Yeah, my back hurts once in a while, and maybe if something goes wrong, I could be risking another injury, but my back has nothing to do with anything, and if anyone thinks it does, they're dead wrong. Besides, The Road Warriors at half-speed are better than anyone else at full-speed.





Hawk was trapped in Scott Norton's backbreaker before Animal climbed onto the ring apron (above) and interfered, allowing Hawk to get the pin (left). Animal says the only reason he did it was to show everyone what a great team the Warriors still are.

HAWK: You heard what we said before—we're ready to kick butt again!

ROSENBAUM: But not too often, at least in the near future, and not in the United States?

HAWK: You know something, you guys are getting a little too nosy for my taste. The answer is that it's none of your business, we're not giving away our strate-

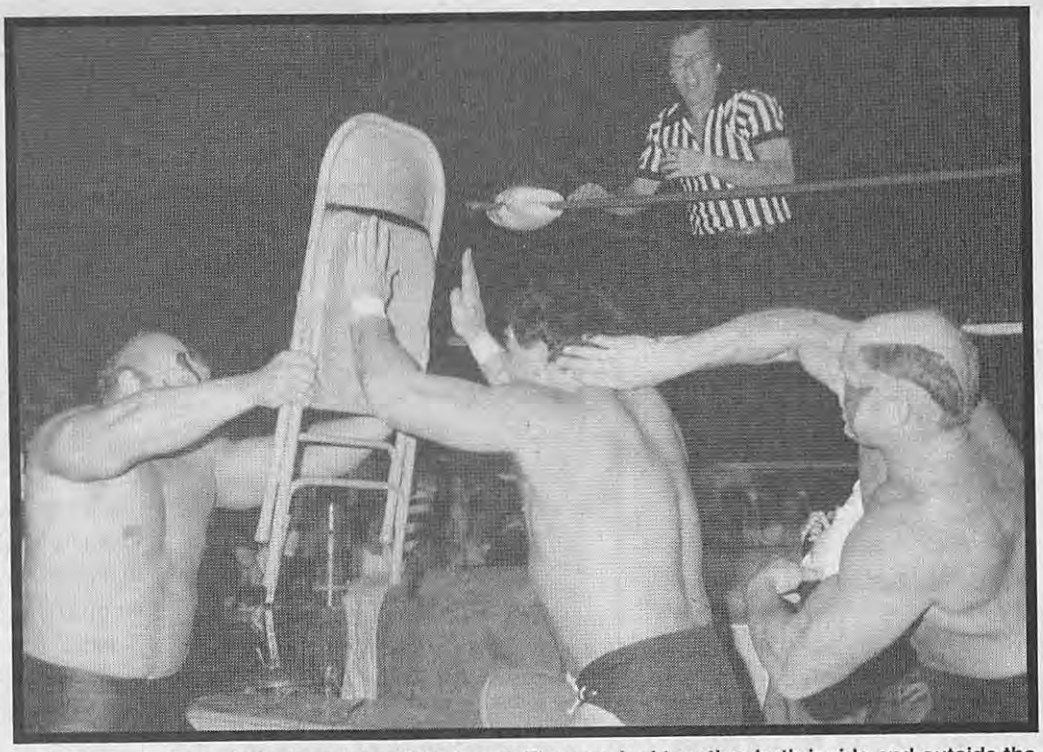
gy, and we're sure as hell not wrestling on somebody else's schedule. Don't you guys have any questions other than what we plan on doing?

ANIMAL: Yeah, ask us about our training.

APTER: I'll bite. What about your training?

ANIMAL: We've been training together for months, and I feel as sharp as ever. Hawk tried to kick my butt in the ring, and he couldn't do it, right, Hawk?

HAWK: I sure wasn't taking it easy on you.



This is a typical Road Warriors' late-1980s brawl: They worked together both inside and outside the ring, using chairs and whatever else to win. Tully Blanchard was the helpless victim this time.

ANIMAL: The way I see it, we've got nearly three years of lost time to make up for, and we got to take things slowly. But it didn't take us long to get back into a groove. It's just like riding a bike, only a little more fun. The Road Warriors are ready.

MANKIEWICZ: A little earlier, you mentioned some of the top tag teams in North America. Let's talk about a few of them. First, Harlem Heat.

ANIMAL: They're nothing, just a couple of street fighters with a bad attitude. We'd kick their butts all the way back to Harlem.

MANKIEWICZ: The Smokin' Gunns.

HAWK: Don't make me laugh. You know, I'd like to kick their butts just to teach them a lesson about getting their dirty hands all over the belts we worked so hard for. It's embarrassing to watch.

APTER: The Nasty Boys.

ANIMAL: They're one of the only teams I even come close to respecting, just because they're tough, but they'd be no match for us..

ROSENBAUM: The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

ANIMAL: Don't make us laugh. Two old men who wrestle just to hear the cheers of the teeny-boppers.

HAWK: They're all a bunch of jokes. The only team we really respect is the Steiners, and who knows what the heck *they'll* be up to in the next few months.

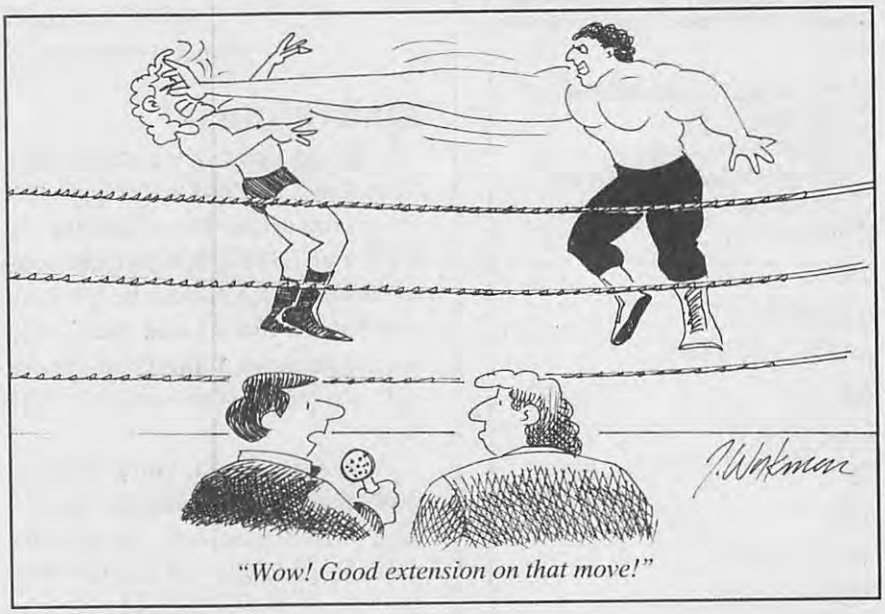
ANIMAL: Probably the same thing as us.

HAWK: Right, and who knows what *that* is.

APTER: Not us. Animal and Hawk, thank you for a very unenlightening interview. We hope to see you soon in the United States.

ANIMAL: Don't bet on it.

HAWK: Yeah, just be happy when it happens. □



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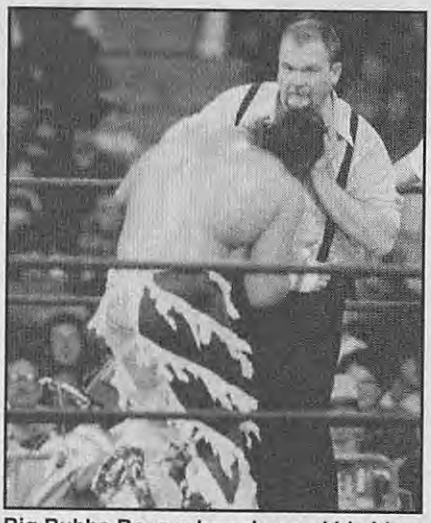
2732/08-94

between falls

(Continued from page 5)



Big Bubba Rogers has changed his identity so many times and turned his back on so many people who believed in him that he will never be trusted again, writes David Taylor.

the fact that he has made fools out of so many people. WCW officials, for example, trusted him to referee matches. The fans trusted him to uphold the law, both in and out of the ring. He also disappointed The Guardian Angels themselves. He promised he would stand for what was right, yet he broke all sorts of rules within months of taking his vow. Big Bubba Rogers will never be trusted again.

DAVID TAYLOR
South Wales, England

KING OF GOLD

I would like to congratulate Jerry "The King" Lawler for accomplishing the unprecedented feat of holding the USWA and SMW heavyweight belts simultaneously. Granted, he lost both belts shortly after he won them—they were fluke losses, I might add—but he still proved why he's called "The King."

A generation of know-nothing WWF fans may remember the "Burger King" who feuded with Captain Kirk and midget clowns. All *real* wrestling fans will remember the true Lawler: the man who wins titles, kicks butt, and fires off some pretty damn funny insults while doing so. Long live "The King!"

HARRY SIMON
Las Vegas, NV

☎ DOWN ON "DIRTY"

As a big fan of Smoky Mountain Wrestling, I am thoroughly disgusted by the Tony Anthony-Buddy Landell feud that just keeps raging on and on and on. It amazes me that Anthony gets so much support from the fans down here. Landell is a foul-mouthed idiot who is way past his prime, and he deserves all the beatings he gets from anyone. But Anthony is just as bad. He breaks all kinds of rules and doesn't care what anybody thinks. I have even seen him put a plastic garbage bag over Landell's head. What was he trying to do, smother him? And Anthony is still considered a fan favorite! If you ask me, he's still the same "Dirty White Boy" he was two years ago, when everyone here hated him. I'll never cheer for that bum.

ALAN WHITESTONE
Paducah, KY ☐

The Buddy Landell-Tony Anthony Smoky Mountain feud has been too much for reader Alan Whitestone to take. He can't believe fans cheer Anthony in spite of the fact that he breaks so many rules.

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2581/07-94

from the desk of...

(Continued from page 8)

Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair had a classic match in October 1994, when they clashed in a retirement match. Hogan won it cleanly, but six months later, they have made a mockery of the bout, as Flair appears to be on his way back.

So now we're left with a predicament. Flair, regardless of his public stance, wants to come back. WCW officials, ever-conscious of the bottom line, want Flair back. The fans, many of whom prefer Flair to Hogan, want him back. Even Hogan, who views Flair as a great payday and an easy night's work, wants him back. Problem is that darn retirement match! If WCW officials do the popular thing and forgive the contractual stipulation mandating Flair's retirement, what credibility does that give the next retirement match they promote?

The answer is obvious: none. The blame for this situation lies not with the match's participants, but with WCW. Flair accepted the stipulation because in his heart, he knew he needed that extra push to beat Hogan, and if he were to lose, he would have probably retired anyway. Hogan accepted the stipulation because he knew it would help sell tickets, and he was supremely confident that he could beat Flair anyway. WCW accepted—welcomed, in fact—the stipulation because it knew the buying public could not resist the guarantee of seeing history being made with one of the sport's all-time greats being forced to leave the sport.

Already we're hearing Nick Bockwinkel hedge over whether the retirement clause will be enforced.

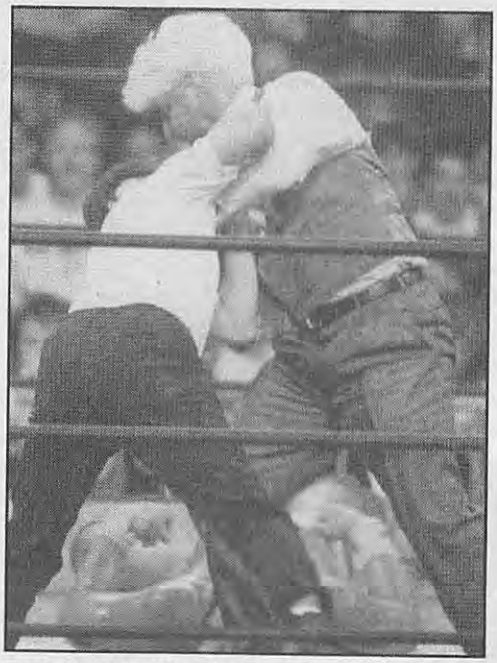
Quoted in Dave Rosenbaum's "No Holds Barred" column in the July '95 edition of *The Wrestler*, the WCW commissioner said: "The contract was between Flair and WCW. If Hogan wants to wrestle Flair, we can stop it, but would it be in our best interests to do so? If Hogan wanted Flair back, maybe it would be best to allow it to happen. Maybe it would be best for everyone if they were allowed to settle this long feud in the ring ... in one final match."

Let the super promotion begin! Hulk Hogan vs. Ric Flair in the match that *really, really* will be the final match.

The wrestling fan in me says, let it happen. Then again, the boxing fan in me said, let Mike Tyson get out of jail before his time was served because I wanted to see him fight again. And the baseball fan in me said, put Pete Rose in the Hall of Fame because he was such a great player. But, even in the '90s, when publishing companies put out magazines like *Wrestling Bad Guys*, right is still right. Mike Tyson was convicted of rape and had to at least serve the minimum three years before being paroled. Rose gambled on baseball games, for Pete's sake, and deserved to be banished from the game for doing so. Ric Flair lost a retirement match. There was no controversial finish, no loopholes to crawl through. Live with it.

But we won't live with it, because these are the '90s, and there is no monetary value assigned to a principle. Ric Flair's not The Man anymore, but not enough of the buying public buys that. Almost everyone wants him back, so logic says bring him back. But what about that one poor schnook who bought his ticket to Halloween Havoc because he trusted the claim that this was indeed a retirement match. Even if Flair, Hogan, and WCW had their hearts in the right place at the time, what message will they be sending now if they go back on their words?

Like I said, I can live with ladder matches, even barbed-wire baseball bat matches, because they are what they say they are. If you like that kind of thing, you pay your money and you go. If you don't, you stay home. Retirement matches leave too much potential for future greed. And in today's world, such potential is almost always realized. □



Even though Ric Flair has been helping Big Van Vader attack Hogan, he is still popular. WCW officials know that bringing back Flair is in their best interests ... at least their best financial interests!

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win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 12)

going to walk away without answering. Then he spoke, the words coming slowly and carefully.

"What can I say, Bill?" he lamented. "It's sad, really sad. A talented kid like that taking the wrong direction. I worked with him, tried my best. Guess I never got through to him."

Then Strongbow suddenly started to look very uncomfortable. Before anyone said another word, he told us he had some important things to take care of. He walked away, giving a quick nod goodbye before he left.

"I think this is upsetting him like nothing ever has," Bill told me. "All those feuds over all those years ... but I think this bothers him the most. Sorry I couldn't get him to open up more."

Several days later, I spoke with Wahoo McDaniel, another one of Tatanka's mentors, and asked him if he'd ever spoken with Strongbow about Tatanka.

"Not recently," he responded, "but I know through other folks how the Chief feels about this. Me, I wasn't as close to Tatanka, so it hasn't affected me in the same way. Maybe I'm just too jaded, who knows?

"Actually," continued McDaniel, "I think Jay feels a special responsibility over what's happened because he and Tatanka are both connected with the WWF. Maybe if Tatanka was wrestling in WCW, the Chief wouldn't feel so bad."

After I got off the phone with McDaniel, I decided to call Bill and ask him if he'd heard anything more from Strongbow.

"Nothing," he responded. "I left a couple of messages, but he hasn't gotten back to me. I'll give him a few more days, but I'm not expecting to hear from him. I think it's all too painful for him."

Considering that Strongbow probably sees Tatanka two or three times a week, that will be difficult. For Strongbow, Tatanka is a sort of monument to his failings. Strongbow cannot be blamed for Tatanka's actions. Still ...

Tatanka is continuing to feud with Lex Luger, and he shows no indication that he might want to reconcile with Strongbow. Nevertheless, Chief Jay keeps on trying to talk to his former protege.

Bill told me he heard from a couple of sources that Strongbow has asked Tatanka to sit down with him so they can work out their problems face-to-face. Tatanka, they say, keeps refusing, but Strongbow keeps trying. It isn't easy for old warriors to retire. It looks like Strongbow has found another battle. □

A COLLECTOR'S EXTRAVAGANZA!

March 1991

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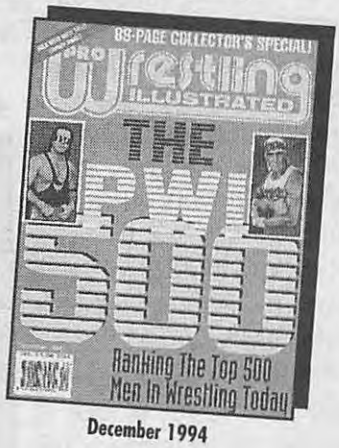

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(Continued from page 7)

"Take the damn picture before I flatten him," Bigelow ordered. "Then get one of him out cold on the floor!" Taylor cocked his fist and, for a moment, I thought they were going to tear the place apart. Thank goodness Taylor's martial arts coach, **Dino Kyriacoli**, was standing nearby. He pulled LT away before anything bad could happen. *Whew*, what a photo session!

I'm very sad to have to report the death of one of the sport's legendary big men, **John Studd**. Studd had been fighting Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer, for about 17 months; he finally succumbed to the disease on March 20 in Fairfax, Virginia.

John wrestled all over the United States and in several foreign countries during his career. His biggest claims to fame were his battles with **Andre the Giant** in the WWF in the mid-1980s. John also enjoyed acting and appeared in many films, most notably *Mickey And Maude*. He also became a regular on the Fox television show *The Dirty Dozen*. Studd wrestled his last match in October of 1993, against **The Honky Tonk Man**.

Capt. Lou Albano is now managing **Headshrinker Samu** on independent cards in New York. Samu is feuding with **Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart**, who, like Samu, left the WWF a few months ago. By the way, Neidhart is teaming with **The Warlord** for some International Wrestling All-Stars cards, and they are calling themselves **The New Powers of Pain**. Warlord and **The Barbarian**, who is now known as **Headshrinker Sionne** in the WWF, were the original Powers of Pain.

Sgt. Slaughter is back wrestling again. He's the number-two contender to American Wrestling Federation champion **Tito Santana**.

Sgt. Slaughter (above) is now wrestling in the AWF, where matches are contested in rounds. He is hoping to get a shot at heavyweight champion Tito Santana, who has been battling number-one contender "Cowboy" Bob Orton (right).

"Cowboy" Bob Orton is the top contender. The Sarge says he plans to march right through Orton en route to the title. "We've been friends for many years, Tito and I," Slaughter added, "but winning the title is my goal. If it means wrestling Tito for it, then that's the way it has to be." By the way, the AWF's matches are a bit different than most wrestling matches. They are contested in rounds, just like boxing.

Accompanying **The Undertaker** for his series of appearances in Smoky Mountain Wrestling, manager **Paul Bearer** promises that "**The Gangstas** will be a ghostly piece of the past when my Undertaker carries their bodies to the lower layer of the Earth!" But how do you really feel, Paul? ... **Public Enemy** and **Shane Douglas**, mainstays in ECW, are off to wrestle in Japan's WING promotion.

A question a fan asked me at SuperBrawl V: If you could join any supergroup in wrestling history, past or present, which one would it be? Well, it probably wouldn't be DiBiase's organization, and I don't think I could have been a Horseman. I think I would have wanted to be the fourth **Freebird**. Although I prefer Diet Coke to Jack Daniel's, the times I spent on the road with **Michael Hayes**, **Terry Gordy**, and **Buddy Roberts** were incredibly fun. Maybe I'll tell a couple of classic stories from those trips on another occasion. But speaking of The Freebirds, Hayes and **Jim Garvin** are feuding

with **Tim Blaze** and his henchmen in Atlantic Championship Wrestling in North Carolina.

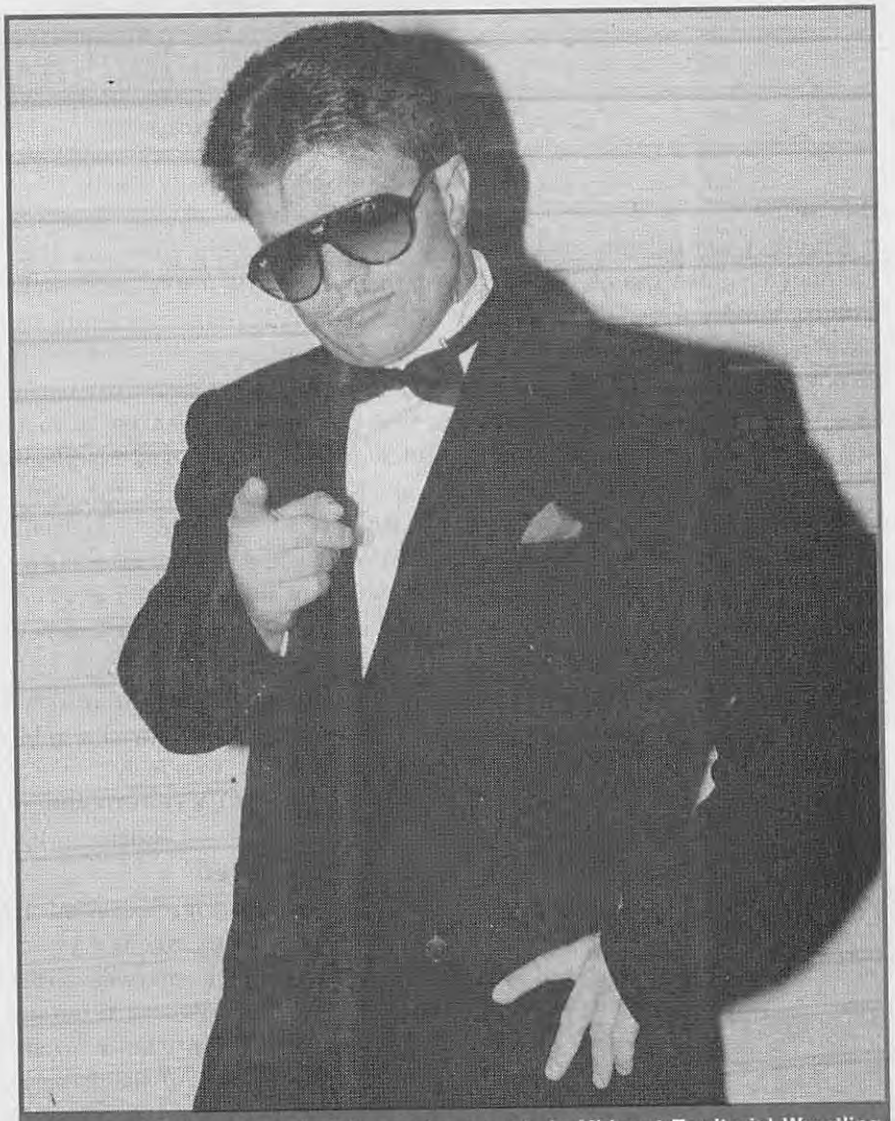
Midwest Territorial Wrestling manager **"Handsome" Johnny Bradford** nearly had his legs broken after he interfered on behalf of his protege, **"Punisher" Rock Stevens**. Rock's opponent, **"Crippler" Ray Roberts**, grabbed Bradford, pushed him down, grabbed both legs, and was about to "make a wish" when Stevens rescued him ... Due to severe back injuries, the wrestling career of **Irwin R. Schyster** may be over.

With **The Road Warriors** and **Rick** and **Scott Steiner** slated to return to WCW in June, I for one would love to see a best-of-seven-match series between two of the best teams of modern times ... **Tamara Murphy Fytch** took some time off from her WWF broadcasting duties in April so she could go shopping in Paris. "I tell the WWF when I'll appear and when I'll take my vacations. They can't run me," snickered the snobbish blonde.

Cactus Jack and **Freddie Fargo**, his manager in Ozark Mountain Wrestling, are still celebrating Cactus' title victory over **The Colorado Kid**. Observers tell me that the Kid might have pulled off the upset had it not been for Fargo's interference.

USWA tag team champions **PG-13—Wolfie D** and **J.C. Ice**—are getting plenty of help in their war against **Tommy Rich** and **Doug Gilbert**. First of all, Rich's mother, **Peggy**, has been coming to ringside and interfering on her son's behalf. So Wolfie's mom and dad joined the crusade and have done a nice job thwarting Peggy and **Big Business Brown**, who is also helping Rich and Gilbert. I wonder why Ice's dad, **Bill Dundee**, hasn't gotten into the fray.

That's all for now, fans. I'll see you at ringside! □



"Handsome" Johnny Bradford is causing trouble in Midwest Territorial Wrestling. "Crippler" Ray Roberts is looking to inflict serious injury on the manager.

"Give it a rest, Walter. You're not big enough to be a television wrestler."

(Continued from page 16)

Dear Men,

Do all of you together add up to 175 pounds? I don't think Ms. Fytch handles midget wrestlers, although she might make an exception for our boys in the armed forces. And in case you hadn't heard, Fytch and Lee went their separate ways about a year ago. Nice job keeping abreast of current events. Did you hear Bruno Sammartino lost the WWF World title? All I can say is this: Thank God we're not at war.

Tamara Murphy Fytch could manage me any time she wanted to. A woman as classy as the lovely Ms. Fytch associates only with the finest people in the world. I am one of those people.

Dear Eddie,

I enjoyed reading your magazine until the last "*PWI* 500" came out. There is a man that deserves to be ranked, and, unfortunately, he was not. His name is The Ultimate Comet, and in the past year, he has captured four titles: the Mid-Eastern and Maryland light heavyweight belts, the Mid-Eastern tag team title with Road Warrior Hawk, and the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title. Additionally, he once defeated Wayne Gill, a wrestler you ranked 403rd. I am enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope. I would appreciate your reply.

JEFFREY D. KOTOWICZ
Baltimore, MD

Dear Jeffrey,

Thank you, my friend. I desperately needed your stamp for the marriage proposal I mailed to Winona Ryder. I don't know what I'm gonna do if she doesn't respond. I just don't know. Does anyone around here know President Clinton's itinerary?

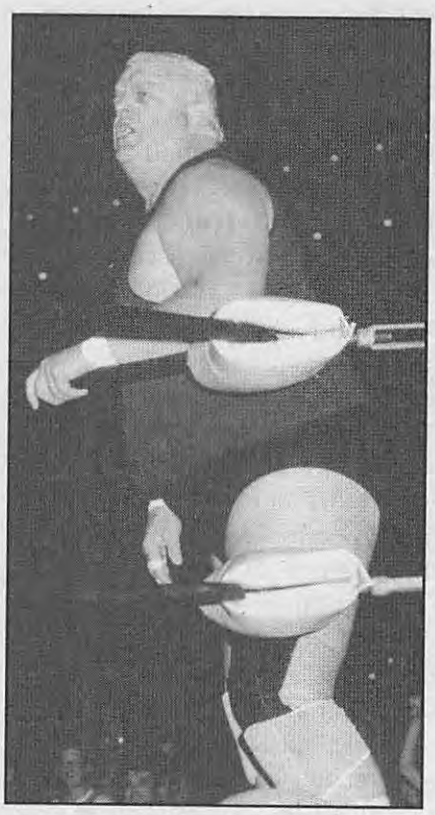
Dear Eddie,

I'm a really big fan of your magazine, and I would like you to send me wrestling films of my favorite wrestler: "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes. I have followed Dusty since I was a little kid. And in case you're wondering, I'm 15 years old now, and I still like wrestling. Most people don't, but I do.

THOMAS HARRIS
Frankfort, KY

Dear Thomas,

I have many fantasies, and at least one doesn't involve Winona Ryder and a spray bottle of sesame oil. I imagine myself testifying to Congress about the deterioration of the American public school system. I snap my fingers, and the heavy oak doors fling open, and a conga line of mailmen dump every letter I've received in the eight years I've been writing this column. "These letters, Mr. Gingrich, are themselves an indictment of our underfunded schools, underpaid teachers, and students, like Thomas Harris, who'd rather crack open someone's head than crack open a book. And if you don't do something about it real fast, Newt, I'm gonna kick your smug, smiling butt from the redwood forests to the gulf stream waters. Whatcha gonna do then, pal?" □



The fact that the fat man (need I even say his name?) still has young fans out there tells you how bad our society really is. Someone save the youth of America!

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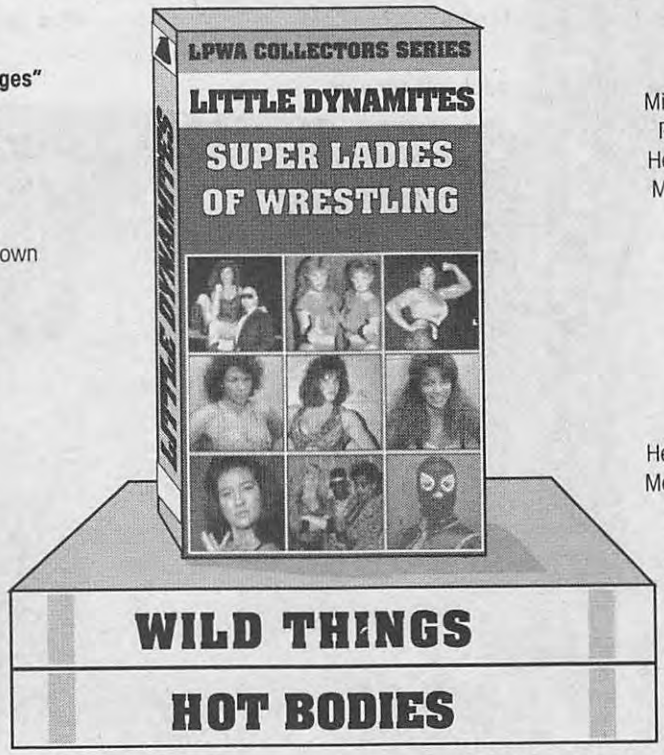

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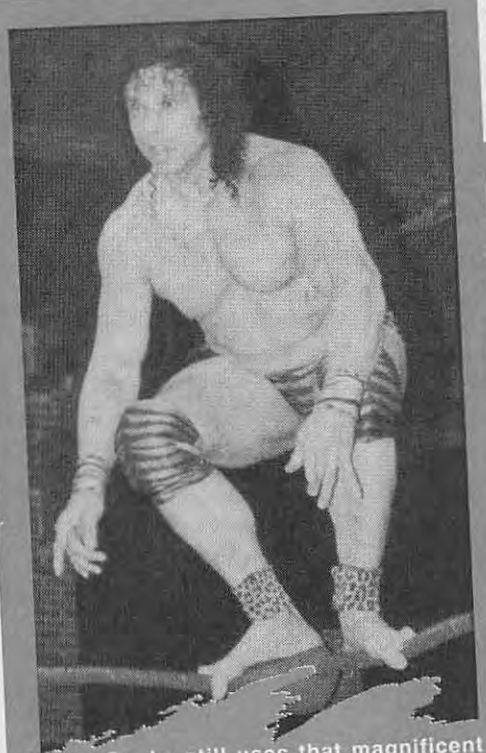
(Continued from page 21)

ended between me and Valentine back in the mid-'80s. For a while, I thought it was over,



Jimmy Snuka still uses that magnificent "Superfly" dive ... just not in the WWF. Fans of independent wrestling still love to watch Snuka ... and he is having the time of his life.

too, but it's far from over. We're wrestling each other all over the U.S.—in all different federations."

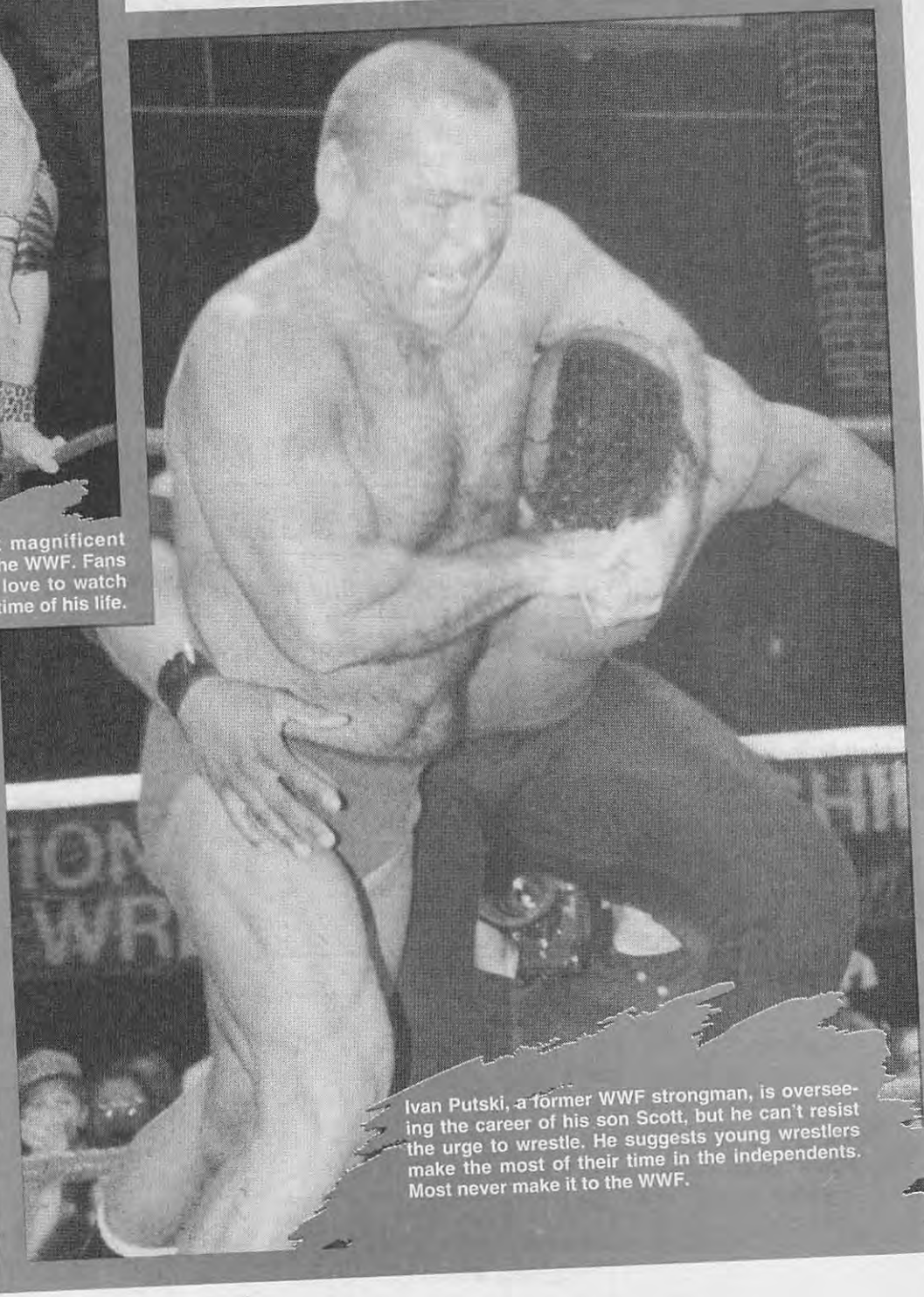
However, neither man is waiting for the WWF to sign them up again. They've found their niche on the independent circuit; it suits them fine.

About halfway through the recent Santana-Valentine title encounter, a fan in the front row of the Memorial Building stood up and waited for Santana and Valentine to bring the action over to his side of the arena. When they did, he taunted them, calling them old men past their glory days.

"Bums!" he shouted. "Go back to the WWF! Wait a minute! You can't go back! They kicked you out! Losers!"

Santana and Valentine looked at each other, and for a brief moment, it almost looked like they shared a smile. Maybe they knew something that fan did not.

Then they started pounding each other again. □



Ivan Putski, a former WWF strongman, is overseeing the career of his son Scott, but he can't resist the urge to wrestle. He suggests young wrestlers make the most of their time in the independents. Most never make it to the WWF.

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June 1984/CENTERFOLD: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

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October 1984/CENTERFOLD: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich,** Martel, Armstrong, Blanchard.

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December 1984/CENTERFOLD: Kerry Von Erich. **Barry Windham,** Martel-Flair, Rich, NWA vs. WWF.

January 1985/CENTERFOLD: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors,** Hayes, Billy Jack.

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July 1992/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Best of the Best,** Flair, U.S.-Japan, Savage.

October 1992/CENTERFOLD: Cactus Jack. **Warrior-Savage,** Williams, Z-Man, WWF titles, fire match.

January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/Summerslam,** Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

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April 1994/CENTERFOLD: Nasty Boys. **Flair-Hogan-Hart,** Rude, Kevin Von, Michaels, steroids.

May 1994/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. **Yokozuna-Luger,** Flair-Vader, Heenan, WrestleMania retrospective.

July 1994/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Razor Ramon,** Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.

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October 1994/CENTERFOLD: Owen Hart. **All-Star Challenge,** Sting, Savage, Hennig, Fytch, WWF in Japan.

November 1994/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Hogan In WCW,** Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.

Winter 1994/CENTERFOLD: Terry Funk. **Hulkamania Wild Again,** McMahon, Vicious, AAA, Flair.

January 1995/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Tatanka,** Hogan, Alundra, ECW vs. NWA, Brian Lee.

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Scouting Report

HOMETOWN: Princeton, MN
HEIGHT: 6'1"
WEIGHT: 234
YEARS PRO: 22
RATING: No. 86 ("*PWI* 500")
STRENGTHS:
•Conditioning. After all these years, he's still in terrific shape.
•Cross-face chicken wing. No one has come up with a counter to this nasty finishing hold.
•Scientifically solid. He may be a rulebreaker, but you'd be hard pressed to find a better mat wrestler.
WEAKNESSES:
•Intensity. Is so obsessed with winning that he sometimes doesn't think logically in the ring.
•Psychological backfire. Degrades foes so much that they get psyched to wrestle him.
•Too familiar. After the initial shock, few opponents fear him or his crazed persona anymore.
OTHER COMMENTS: It's still hard to believe the former clean-cut, clean-living "All-American Boy" has been a heinous rulebreaker for close to a year … A two-time former WWF World champ … His first reign, which began when he beat Superstar Graham in 1978, lasted nearly six years; his second lasted three days … Voted Most Hated Wrestler of 1994 by *PWI* readers … Currently on a campaign to "raise the moral standards of Americans everywhere" … Will use his cross-face chicken wing on just about anyone who even looks at him funny.
OUTLOOK FOR 1995: It's difficult to imagine Backlund winning a third WWF World title, but then again, most people never thought he would beat Bret Hart last year to win his second. As crazy and determined as Backlund is, he probably has what it takes to upset almost any wrestler in the WWF. If he does find a way to win the World or Intercontinental title, though, don't expect a long reign. His stamina and all-around skills aren't what they used to be.

BOB BACKLUND

MENG

HOMETOWN: Isle of Tonga
HEIGHT: 6'1"
WEIGHT: 274
YEARS PRO: 18
RATING: Unranked in 1994 "*PWI* 500"
STRENGTHS:
•Martial arts master. Incredible leg strength makes superkicks all the more devastating.
•Poker face. His expression never changes, and it's hard to tell when he is hurt.
•Headstrong. Headbutt him and you'll be the one feeling the pain.
WEAKNESSES:
•Excess bulk. How much better would he be if he were a little lighter and quicker?
•Stretched too thin. Should be a bodyguard *or* a wrestler, not both.
•Enlarged pupils. Susceptible to attacks in first minute of matches—after he removes his sunglasses … and before his eyes adjust to the light.
OTHER COMMENTS: Brought to WCW in 1994 by Col. Robert Parker, who hired him to be the bodyguard for the Stud Stable … Had several heated confrontations with Dusty Rhodes last year … Formerly known as Haku in the WWF … Won WWF tag title in 1990 with Andre the Giant … Held now-defunct WWF "King's" crown for 10 months in 1988-89 … Has beaten most preliminary WCW opponents in less than 20 seconds … Beat Hacksaw Duggan in martial arts bout at WCW Uncensored.
OUTLOOK FOR 1995: It took a while, but Col. Parker finally seems to have realized that Meng's talents were being wasted during his stint as a full-time bodyguard. Meng has the ability and attitude to become a major player in WCW. Look for him to wrestle more and watch Parker's back less in the next year. Also look for him to capture a title in WCW; there are quite a few wrestlers around who are afraid to wrestle him because of his sadistic nature.

HOMETOWN: Harrisburg, PA
HEIGHT: 6'6"
WEIGHT: 292
YEARS PRO: 4
RATING: No. 142 ("*PWI* 500")
STRENGTHS:
•Top-rope clothesline. Arm remains fully extended even as it connects with an opponent's throat.
•Well-prepared. Works out in dressing room and enters ring with momentum.
•Kneedrops. They're always powerful and almost always hit their intended target.
WEAKNESSES:
•Poor chain wrestler. Executes one move at a time and rests too much in between.
•Misguided. Doesn't recognize true potential for greatness could be on tag team level.
•Kevin Sullivan. Still has nightmares about their violent matches in 1993.
OTHER COMMENTS: One of the WWF's most popular up-and-comers ... Was brought to the WWF in 1993 by manager Johnny Polo, but quickly abandoned him and joined Harvey Wippleman's camp ... Became a fan favorite after a falling-out with Wippleman ... Has been feuding with Bam Bam Bigelow and King Kong Bundy ... Used to compete as The Nightstalker in Smoky Mountain, where he had that series of violent matches with Sullivan.
OUTLOOK FOR 1995: Bomb is truly an enigma; he has excellent physical skills, and a fine sideslam finisher, yet he has a real problem with consistency. It would probably be in his best interests to hire a good manager, one who could help him set goals. Until he gets more focused, don't look for things to change much. He has yet to seriously contend for any WWF title and isn't close to doing so. If he doesn't start doing better soon, look for him to turn rulebreaker again.

ADAM BOMB

BIG BUBBA ROGERS

HOMETOWN: Cobb County, GA
HEIGHT: 6'6"
WEIGHT: 310
YEARS PRO: 10
RATING: No. 55 ("*PWI* 500")
STRENGTHS:
•Ruggedness. There aren't many people in the world tougher than this no-nonsense wrestler.
•Career direction. *Finally* recognized he's most effective as a rulebreaker.
•Overweight. Knows how to throw his weight around—literally!
WEAKNESSES:
•Ring attire. Insists on wrestling in street clothes, which hinder his movement.
•Streetfighter. Has been injured countless times in battles outside wrestling.
•No secrets. Most opponents are former friends, and they know him inside and out.
OTHER COMMENTS: There is probably no wrestler with a worse identity crisis than Rogers ... After starting his career as Big Bubba, Jim Cornette's personal bodyguard, he has used the names Big Bossman, The Boss, The Man, The Guardian Angel, and Big Bubba again ... Turned rulebreaker again in January ... Fared poorly in a feud with Big Van Vader in 1994 ... Former UWF champ picked up a huge win when he beat Sting at WCW Uncensored ... Had a major feud with Hulk Hogan in the WWF in 1988.
OUTLOOK FOR 1995: When a frustrated Guardian Angel attacked Sting and changed his name to Big Bubba Rogers at Clash of the Champions XXX, a lot of people saw it as a desperate act by a desperate man trying to save his foundering career. But since Rogers beat Sting at Uncensored, he has to be considered a serious contender. He'd be better off on his own than teaming with Avalanche. Look for him to go solo more in 1995, and look for him to do better than he did in 1994.

HOMETOWN: Melbourne, Australia
HEIGHT: 5'7"
WEIGHT: 219
YEARS PRO: 21
RATING: Unranked in 1994 "*PWI* 500"
STRENGTHS:
•Powerful fists. Brawling skills are often underestimated.
•Experience. Has wrestled all over the world and still learns from every match.
•Managerial stint. Tenure as Sir William in WCW gave his body a chance to recuperate.
WEAKNESSES:
•Lawler-obsessed. Doesn't realize he'll probably never be "King" in Memphis.
•Non-specialty specialist. Is at his best in conventional matches, yet he keeps wrestling in bouts with odd stipulations.
•Resists change. Prefers to wrestle the same opponents over and over.
OTHER COMMENTS: Current USWA heavyweight champion is feuding with both Jerry Lawler and Brian Christopher ... Still occasionally teams with Lawler, with whom he has won many tag titles over the years ... Has won dozens of regional titles throughout the South ... Managed Lord Steven Regal to two WCW TV titles in WCW as "Sir William" in 1993-94 ... Father of PG-13's J.C. Ice (Jamie Dundee).
OUTLOOK FOR 1995: It's hard to say how much longer Dundee, a 21-year veteran, will be able to wrestle effectively. For now, he is still able to handle men a decade or two younger than him. He seems to understand his limitations at this point in his career and would do well to stay in the USWA or another independent, where he still has the skills to dominate.

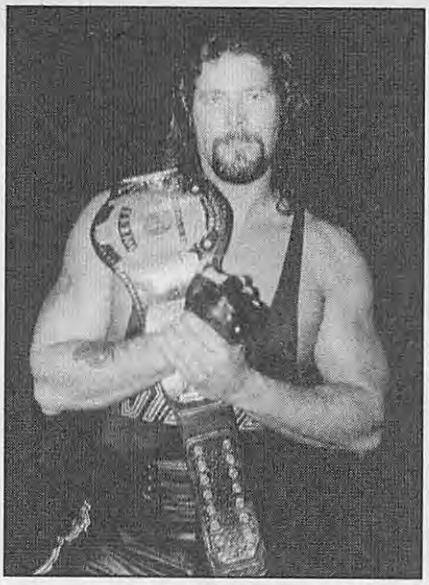
BILL DUNDEE

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

PWI's Top 10

TOP 10

1. **DIESEL**
   356, Las Vegas, NV
   (1) WWF World champion
2. **THE UNDERTAKER**
   328, parts unknown
   (9) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
3. **RAZOR RAMON**
   287, Miami, FL
   (3) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
4. **HULK HOGAN**
   275, Venice Beach, CA
   (7) WCW World champion
5. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   (2) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
6. **BIG VAN VADER**
   450, Denver, CO
   (4) U.S. heavyweight champion
7. **JEFF JARRETT**
   230, Nashville, TN
   (6) WWF Intercontinental champion
8. **ARN ANDERSON**
   249, Minneapolis, MN
   (8) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
9. **BRET HART**
   234, Calgary, Alberta
   (5) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
10. **SHAWN MICHAELS**
    234, San Antonio, TX
    (-) No. 5 contender: WWF World title



Diesel

TAG TEAMS

1. **OWEN HART & YOKOZUNA**
   Combined weight: 795 pounds
   (-) WWF World tag team champions
2. **THE NASTY BOYS**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   (9) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
3. **HARLEM HEAT**
   Combined weight: 550 pounds
   (1) WCW World tag team champions
4. **LEX LUGER & DAVEY BOY SMITH**
   Combined weight: 510 pounds
   (-) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
5. **THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
   Combined weight: 453 pounds
   (5) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
6. **THE SMOKIN' GUNNS**
   Combined weight: 465 pounds
   (2) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title
7. **PG-13**
   Combined weight: 471 pounds
   (-) USWA tag team champions
8. **ELI & JACOB BLU**
   Combined weight: 517 pounds
   (3) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title
9. **MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT**
   Combined weight: 491 pounds
   (4) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
10. **CHRIS BENOIT & DEAN MALENKO**
    Combined weight: 434 pounds
    (7) ECW tag team champions

WCW

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

1—**BIG VAN VADER** *(1) 450, Denver, CO*
2—**ARN ANDERSON** *(2) 249, Minneapolis, MN*
3—**HACKSAW DUGGAN** *(4) 280, Glens Falls, NY*
4—**STING** *(5) 260, Venice Beach, CA*
5—**JOHNNY B. BADD** *(3) 235, Macon, GA*
6—**RANDY SAVAGE** *(6) 237, Sarasota, FL*
7—**BUBBA ROGERS** *(9) 310, Cobb County, GA*
8—**ALEX WRIGHT** *(7) 222, Berlin, Germany*
9—**STEVE AUSTIN** *(-) 241, Dallas, TX*
10—**MENG** *(-) 294, Tonga*

WWF

World Champion:
DIESEL
(C) 356, Las Vegas, NV

1—**JEFF JARRETT** *(1) 230, Nashville, TN*
2—**RAZOR RAMON** *(6) 287, Miami, FL*
3—**THE UNDERTAKER** *(3) 328, parts unknown*
4—**BRET HART** *(2) 234, Calgary, Alberta*
5—**SHAWN MICHAELS** *(7) 234, San Antonio, TX*
6—**LEX LUGER** *(9) 265, Chicago, IL*
7—**DAVEY BOY SMITH** *(8) 245, Leeds, England*
8—**BOB BACKLUND** *(5) 234, Princeton, MN*
9—**KING KONG BUNDY** *(-) 446, Atlantic City, NJ*
10—**HAKUSHI** *(-) 231, Tokyo, Japan*

USWA

USWA Champion:
RAZOR RAMON
(C) 287, Miami, FL

1—**BRIAN LEE** *(-) 251, Los Angeles, CA*
2—**BILL DUNDEE** *(C) 219, Melbourne, Australia*
3—**BRIAN CHRISTOPHER** *(1) 230, Memphis, TN*
4—**GORGEOUS GEORGE III** *(4) 221, Charlotte, NC*
5—**TOMMY RICH** *(7) 248, Hendersonville, TN*
6—**SPELLBINDER** *(5) 246, parts unknown*
7—**JACK HAMMER** *(-) 325, Allentown, PA*
8—**JERRY LAWLER** *(2) 234, Memphis, TN*
9—**DOUG BASHAM** *(-) 228, Memphis, TN*
10—**DOUG GILBERT** *(-) 241, Lexington, TN*

ECW

ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS
(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

1—**TOMMY DREAMER** *(10) 245, Yonkers, NY*
2—**SABU** *(3) 220, Bombay*
3—**CACTUS JACK** *(4) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM*
4—**TERRY FUNK** *(-) 247, Amarillo, TX*
5—**2 COLD SCORPIO** *(8) 222, Denver, CO*
6—**CHRIS BENOIT** *(6) 218, Edmonton, Alberta*
7—**DEAN MALENKO** *(5) 216, Tampa, FL*
8—**THE SANDMAN** *(-) 244, Philadelphia, PA*
9—**911** *(-) 310, parts unknown*
10—**TASMANIAC** *(9) 221, Tasmania*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended April 6, 1995

MOST POPULAR

1. **DIESEL**
   356, Las Vegas, NV
   Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular
2. **HULK HOGAN**
   275, Venice Beach, CA
   Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
3. **SHAWN MICHAELS**
   234, San Antonio, TX
   Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
4. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
5. **BRET HART**
   234, Calgary, Alberta
   Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular
6. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   237, Sarasota, FL
   Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular
7. **RAZOR RAMON**
   287, Miami, FL
   Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular
8. **THE UNDERTAKER**
   328, parts unknown
   Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular
9. **LEX LUGER**
   265, Chicago, IL
   Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
10. **HACKSAW DUGGAN**
    280, Glens Falls, NY
    Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1. **SID VICIOUS**
   318, West Memphis, AR
   Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
2. **BIG VAN VADER**
   450, Denver, CO
   Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
3. **BOB BACKLUND**
   234, Princeton, MN
   Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
4. **OWEN HART**
   227, Calgary, Alberta
   Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated
5. **BUBBA ROGERS**
   310, Cobb County, GA
   Last issue: unrated
6. **JEFF JARRETT**
   230, Nashville, TN
   Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated
7. **KAMA**
   335, Las Vegas, NV
   Last issue: unrated
8. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
   Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
9. **KING KONG BUNDY**
   446, Atlantic City, NJ
   Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated
10. **BRIAN LEE**
    251, Los Angeles, CA
    Last issue: unrated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—HULK HOGAN ..... 77 points
2—RAZOR RAMON ..... 71 points
3—DIESEL ..... 59 points
4—BRET HART ..... 58 points
5—STING ..... 54 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE NASTY BOYS ..... 73 points
2—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT ..... 67 points
3—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS ..... 52 points
4—HARLEM HEAT ..... 51 points
5—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA ..... 46 points

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:
BOBBY BLAZE
(C) 222, Charlotte, NC

1. **BUDDY LANDELL**
   (2) 236, Los Angeles, CA
2. **TONY ANTHONY**
   (1) 235, Bucksnort, TN
3. **TRACEY SMOTHERS**
   (4) 227, Atlanta, GA
4. **BOO BRADLEY**
   (3) 310, parts unknown
5. **AL SNOW**
   (7) 232, Lima, OH
6. **KILLER KYLE**
   (-) 303, Atlanta, GA
7. **UNIBOMB**
   (8) 345, parts unknown
8. **D-LO BROWN**
   (6) 305, Bronx, NY
9. **ROBERT GIBSON**
   (9) 225, Pensacola, FL
10. **RICK MORTON**
    (10) 228, Memphis, TN

INTERNATIONAL

Triple Crown Champion:
STAN HANSEN
(C) 322, Borger, TX

1. **MITSUHARU MISAWA**
   (2) 247, Saitama, Japan
2. **SHINYA HASHIMOTO**
   (3) 287, Gisu, Japan
3. **TOSHIAKI KAWADA**
   (7) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
4. **BIG VAN VADER**
   (4) 450, Denver, CO
5. **THE GREAT MUTA**
   (-) 245, Tokyo, Japan
6. **KONNAN**
   (-) 237, Mexico City, Mexico
7. **NOBUHIKO TAKADA**
   (6) 231, Yokohama, Japan
8. **PERRO AGUAYO**
   (9) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico
9. **KENTA KOBASHI**
   (5) 261, Tokyo, Japan
10. **GARY ALBRIGHT**
    (10) 340, Billings, MT

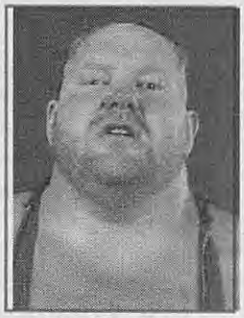
AAA: AAA Champion—Perro Aguayo; **1**—Octagon; **2**—Cien Caras; **3**—Konnan; **4**—La Parka; **5**—El Hijo Del Santo; **6**—Psicosis; **7**—Blue Panther; **8**—Eddy Guerrero; **9**—Rey Mysterio Jr.; **10**—Miguel Perez Jr..
ACW: ACW Champion—T. Rantula; **1**—Tito Santana; **2**—Shane Douglas; **3**—Rick Martel; **4**—2 Cold Scorpio; **5**—Cactus Jack; **6**—Tasmaniac; **7**—Ron Simmons; **8**—Tommy Dreamer; **9**—Johnny Gunn; **10**—Glenn Osbourne.
IWCCW: IWCCW Champion—Greg Valentine; **1**—Tito Santana; **2**—Rick Martel; **3**—Scott Putski; **4**—Bastion Booger; **5**—Koko B. Ware; **6**—Tony Atlas; **7**—Johnny Gunn; **8**—Jimmy Snuka; **9**—Joe Savoldi; **10**—Metal Maniac.
MTW: MTW Champion—Bruiser Bedlam; **1**—Cactus Jack; **2**—Al Snow; **3**—Johnny Paradise; **4**—Chris Carter; **5**—Ray Roberts; **6**—Sean Casey; **7**—J.T. Lightning; **8**—Machine Gun Kelly; **9**—Rock Stevens; **10**—Dan Severn.
PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; **1**—Jerry Lynn; **2**—Charlie Norris; **3**—Randy Gusto; **4**—Jesse Hennig; **5**—Punisher; **6**—Horace the Lunatic; **7**—Dan Jesser; **8**—Tommy Ferrara; **9**—Blake Beverly; **10**—Derrick Dukes.
PWF: PWF Champion—Terry Austin; **1**—Italian Stallion; **2**—Russian Assassin II; **3**—Star Ryder; **4**—Chris Hamrick; **5**—Austin Steele; **6**—Masked Maniac; **7**—Tyrone Knox; **8**—Flaming Youth; **9**—Black Scorpion; **10**—Cruel Connection II.
WWA: WWA Champion—Frank Finnegan; **1**—Nikolai Volkoff; **2**—Ed Atlas; **3**—Gus the Greek; **4**—John Rotten; **5**—Akita Kaos; **6**—East L.A.; **7**—Devon Storm; **8**—Jim McPherson; **9**—Paul White; **10**—Jason Headings.
WWWA: WWWA Champion—Jack Hammer; **1**—Derrick Domino; **2**—Glenn Osbourne; **3**—Ace Darling; **4**—Super Nova; **5**—Mr. Motion; **6**—Harley Lewis; **7**—Bobby Piper; **8**—Mad Russian; **9**—The Zombie; **10**—Johnny Rebel.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Title vs. title. The rich get richer (or at least try to), and the poor have to sit by and wait patiently for their turn. That's what seems to be happening in a lot of wrestling federations lately. Allow us to explain:

Since **Big Van Vader** won the WCW U.S. title from **Hacksaw Duggan** at Starrcade last December, he has been busy defending it against ... well, no one. Actually, that's not entirely true. Vader has granted Duggan a series of rematches and has taken the occasional match against WCW mid-carders. He has, however, spent the majority of his time since the last holiday season doing anything and everything in his power to destroy **Hulk Hogan**, who just happens to be the WCW World champion. It's hard to blame Vader; he's a three-time former WCW World champion, and he *hates* to settle for second-best in anything he does.


Big Van Vader

The situation in the WWF is similar, yet different. **Diesel**, who was still the World champ as of press time, told everyone from the day he won the title from **Bob Backlund** that he would be a fighting champion.

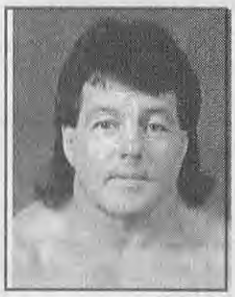
He made good on that promise, defending against Backlund, **Bret Hart**, **Bam Bam Bigelow**, **King Kong Bundy**, **Owen Hart**, and others. And that was just in the first few months of his reign.

By the time 1995 started, though, **Jeff Jarrett** started to get his share of World title shots. Unfortunately for "Double-J," not even the interference of **The Roadie** could help him against "Big Daddy Cool." He lost every match, most times after being unceremoniously power-bombed in the center of the ring.

When Jarrett won the Intercontinental title from **Razor Ramon** at the 1995 Royal Rumble in January, he got even more World title shots. Diesel continued to power-bomb him and pin him in match after match. Jarrett would occasionally defend *his* title against Ramon or another worthy contender, but for the most part, he concentrated on winning the World title.

Finally, in the USWA, even *stranger* things are going on. Most wrestlers who win either the Southern or heavyweight title in that federation have a hard time holding on to it for more than two or three weeks at a time. **Sid Vicious** amazed a lot of people by keeping the USWA heavyweight belt from July 1994 until February 1995. Of course, he did have to cheat a lot to do so.

But when **Bill Dundee** won that belt from **Jerry Lawler** on February 25 in Memphis, he immediately decided it was in his best interests to resume his feud with **Brian Christopher**, who just happened to have won the Southern title a few weeks earlier.


Bill Dundee

Since then, Dundee and Christopher have been going at it in bullwhip matches and all kinds of other odd stipulation bouts. It made for exciting action, as the two split their matches pretty evenly. Problem was that for most of the contests, neither man's title was on the line. Dundee put the heavyweight title up for grabs a few times, and defended the belt against a few other contenders—such as Lawler and **Gorgeous George III**. The Southern belt, on the other hand, wasn't defended at all during a three-week span, which is practically an eternity in the USWA.

In a story in the summer 1995 issue of *Wrestle America*, we suggested that the stakes must be changed in title vs. title matches in the WWF. Now we're wondering if the same shouldn't be true in all federations. If a world champion beats an Intercontinental or U.S. champion, maybe the loser should be forced to relinquish his belt and a tournament should be held to crown a new champion. Or maybe there should be a limit on title vs. title matches, especially if one of the titleholders is beaten cleanly and decisively. We think there should be, because fans who pay to see live wrestling shouldn't be deprived of seeing as many title bouts as possible.

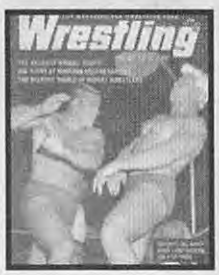
Most federations have plenty of wrestlers who are worthy of title shots; we think those title shots should be more evenly distributed. What kind of message is sent to someone like **Lex Luger** when he beats **Tatanka** in match after match, yet he can't get a shot at the World or Intercontinental belts because both champions are busy battling each other?

We've made our point! We think federations need to rethink their positions on title vs. title matches. How do you feel about it? If you have any comments about this issue or anything else concerning our ratings, please feel free to write to us. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Wrestling historians, rejoice! Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than a decade—but a recent transfer of warehouse inventory from New York to Pennsylvania uncovered a small supply of these classic publications! Obviously, supplies are extremely limited, so all magazines will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis only. Prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the number of available copies. For speediest service, use VISA or MasterCard or make payment by money order or certified check. Please don't send cash! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime chance to own a memorable piece of wrestling history! Once they're gone, they'll never be offered for sale again—so order today!

WRESTLING REVUE



Published between 1959 and 1964, *Wrestling Revue* is acknowledged as one of the finest series of wrestling magazines ever produced. These beautiful editions, all edited and published by Stanley Weston (founder of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated, The Wrestler,* and *Inside Wrestling,* among so many other titles) set a standard for all wrestling magazines that followed, and are available now for the first time in many years!

Fall 1961 Edouard Carpentier challenges Floyd Patterson, Bruiser vs. Cowboy Bob Ellis, The Zebra Kid, killer holds, action at The Kiel, Nick Bockwinkel vs. Dr. X, and full-color action of the Bastiens vs. Shires & Nelson. **$25**

December 1961 An extensive Buddy Rogers interview, Bobo Brazil, Fred Blassie, Pepper Gomez, the Torres brothers, Whipper Watson, "Sailor" Art Thomas, Ricki Starr, plus a full-color centerfold of Mark Lewin & Don Curtis. **$35**

February 1962 Dick Beyer, Mitsu Arakawa, Edouard Carpentier vs. Lou Thesz, Angelo Poffo, a five-girl battle royal, Don and Jackie Fargo, Billy Zabyszko, Larry Chene, plus a full-color centerfold of Guy & Joe Brunetti. **$30**

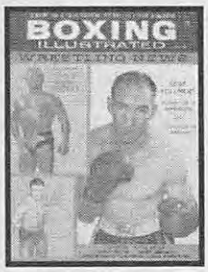
April 1962 Wilbur Snyder, Luis Martinez, Madison Square Garden closeup, Yulie Brynner, Billy Wolfe, Don Leo Jonathan vs. Pat O'Connor, closeup on midgets, plus a full-color centerfold of Bearcat Wright. **$30**

June 1962 Eddie Graham, Verne Gagne, wrestlers vs. boxers, Dory Dixon, Yukon Eric, Tony Lanza, Lorraine Johnson vs. Kay Noble, Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard, The Crusher, plus a full-color centerfold of Red Bastien. **$25**

December 1963 The Destroyer, "Maniac" Mark Lewin, Paul Diamond, Ernie Ladd, Judy Grable, Bill Watts, Pat O'Connor, Don Duffy, The Scufflin' Hillbillies, plus a full-color centerfold of Lou Thesz. **$35**

February 1964 Edouard Carpentier vs. Killer Kowalski, Florida wrestling, Mad Dog Vachon, Fabulous Moolah, Fritz Von Erich, Rene Goulet, Cyclops, plus a full-color centerfold of Bruno Sammartino. **$35**

BOXING ILLUSTRATED/ WRESTLING NEWS



In November 1958, Stanley Weston launched *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News,* an innovative concept in sports magazines. Each issue's content consisted of approximately 60 percent boxing and 40 percent wrestling, resulting in the most complete magazine for ring afficianados the world has ever known.

May 1959 ***Boxing:*** Ray Robinson, James Jeffries, Rube Vargas, Willie Pep, Joey Maxim, Denny Moyer. ***Wrestling:*** Gene Stanlee, Larry Hamilton, Happy Humphrey, "Cowboy" Bob Ellis. **$25**

June 1959 ***Boxing:*** Gene Fullmer, Jack Britton, Gustav Scholz, Mauro Vazquez, Rocky Graziano. ***Wrestling:*** Buddy Rogers, Don Leo Jonathan, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Omaya Kato. **$35**

September 1959 ***Boxing:*** Carmen Basilio, the perfect kayo, Tiger Flowers, Joe Brown, Paolo Rosi. ***Wrestling:*** Edouard Carpentier, Ricki Starr, Enrique Torres. **$25**

October 1962 ***Boxing:*** Special edition previewing the Floyd Patterson vs. Sonny Liston bout! ***Wrestling:*** "Handsome" Johnny Barend, Andre Drapp, "Sailor" Art Thomas, five pages of results. **$30**

October 1963 ***Boxing:*** Cassius Clay, Joe Lynch, Frankie Narvaez, Tommy Loughran. ***Wrestling:*** Crusher vs. Verne Gagne, Tony Manous, The Dirty Daltons, results. **$25**

February 1964 ***Boxing:*** Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, 1963 in review, Cassius Clay. ***Wrestling:*** Bruno Sammartino vs. Gorilla Monsoon, Emile Dupre, Bruiser vs. Bob Ellis, results. **$30**

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WRESTLING REVUE

- ☐ Fall 1961
- ☐ December 1961
- ☐ February 1962
- ☐ April 1962
- ☐ June 1962
- ☐ December 1963
- ☐ February 1964

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- ☐ September 1959
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VOLUME XVI, No. 6 JUNE 1995

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

CRUSH ARRESTED AND JAILED IN HAWAII

Illegal Bodybuilding Drugs Seized In WWF Star's Home

By DAVE LENKER

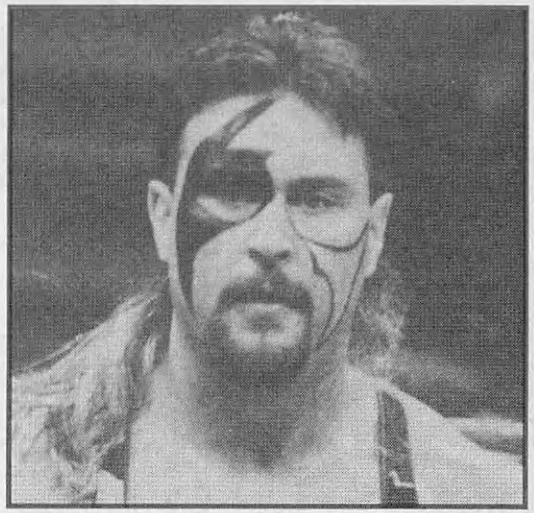
KONA, HI—Less than eight months after WWF head Vince McMahon was acquitted on charges he conspired to distribute steroids to some of his wrestlers, WWF star Crush was arrested at his home after narcotics officers searched his home and found 500 units of anabolic steroids.

According to published reports, officers were tipped off by the Customs Mail Branch at Honolulu Airport when it discovered a parcel from London containing the illegal bodybuilding drugs. After Crush accepted the package at his home, the officers searched his home and claim to have found found marijuana and several unregistered semiautomatic handguns. He was charged with seven counts of promoting harmful drugs and five counts related to unlawful possession of a firearm.

He was jailed on March 13 and released after posting $10,275 bail.

The 6'6", 322-pound Hawaii native has been an infrequent competitor in the WWF since last summer, though he did participate in the 1995 Royal Rumble.

The arrest happened at a time when the WWF was just starting to put the negative publicity of the McMahon trial behind it. That trial, which lasted 2½ weeks, saw many former WWF wrestlers, including Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior, testify that they had taken steroids while in the WWF.



Crush was arrested in his home after he received a package containing 500 units of anabolic steroids. He was jailed, then released after posting bail.

Cornette Summons Undertaker To SMW

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

MORRISTOWN, TN—Jim Cornette is so anxious to drive The Gangstas out of Smoky Mountain for good that he has enlisted the help of two unlikely sources: The Undertaker and Paul Bearer.

Undertaker and Bearer agreed to team with Tracey Smothers and Bob Armstrong in a series of matches against The Gangstas and D-Lo Brown. Rival *WWF* managers Bearer and Cornette were both scheduled to be in the fan favorites' corner. What makes this pairing strange is that Undertaker and Bearer feuded with Yokozuna, one of Cornette's charges, during much of 1994 and 1995. Yokozuna dropped out of sight after losing a casket match to Undertaker at Survivor Series '94.

"I can't stand Undertaker and that spooky manager of his," Cornette said, "but they hate The Gangstas as much as I do, so we're on the same team for a while. This ain't gonna be a full-time partnership! Yoko will be back after those guys real soon, I promise you that!"

Sabu-Funk Rivalry Renewed In Vegas

By ED EMELETT

LAS VEGAS—Fans who were on hand for the March 17 National Wrestling Conference card at the Silver Nugget Casino witnessed what may have been the bloodiest chapter of a long-running feud between Terry Funk and Sabu. Sabu beat Funk in a Texas chain match to win the vacant NWC heavyweight title.

The match was signed because Funk and Sabu were the top two contenders when former champ Tito Santana was stripped of the title. Six tables were smashed, and an entire snack bar and concession stand area was destroyed in the 30-minute bout. In the end, Sabu tied Funk to a table in the middle of the ring, then moonsaulted onto him and sent him crashing through the table. Only then did Sabu drag Funk to all four corners of the ring to win the match. Both men required stitches afterward.

"I lost, but I sure had fun," Funk said afterward.

Parker And Austin Reunite

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

ATLANTA—Only a year ago, Col. Robert Parker told Steve Austin he was going to allow him to manage his own career, and that he had other wrestlers who needed him.

Steve Austin and manager Col. Robert Parker were a formidable duo in the past, and they're back together. Austin expects to get title shots soon.

Now, with Austin coming off a major knee injury and struggling to get back into serious contention for the WCW World and U.S. titles, he has again joined forces with the controversial manager. But to hear Parker tell it, he never really stopped helping "Stunning" Steve.

"I did my work behind the scenes, you understand," Parker crowed. "I was always there to lend the man a hand. Now he needs me to get him back to the top, and I plan on doin' exactly that."

"I don't *need* anyone," Austin countered. "I just like having a manager in my corner. Parker better get me some title shots soon if he knows what's good for him!"

AROUND THE GLOBE

OKOYAMA, JAPAN

Stan Hansen won his fourth Triple Crown championship when he defeated Toshiaki Kawada. Another American, Steve Williams, definitely took notice. "Dr. Death," a former Triple Crown champion himself, immediately made it known that he wanted another crack at that triumvirate of titles. "Any time, any place," said Williams. "We'll see who the toughest man in the world is!"

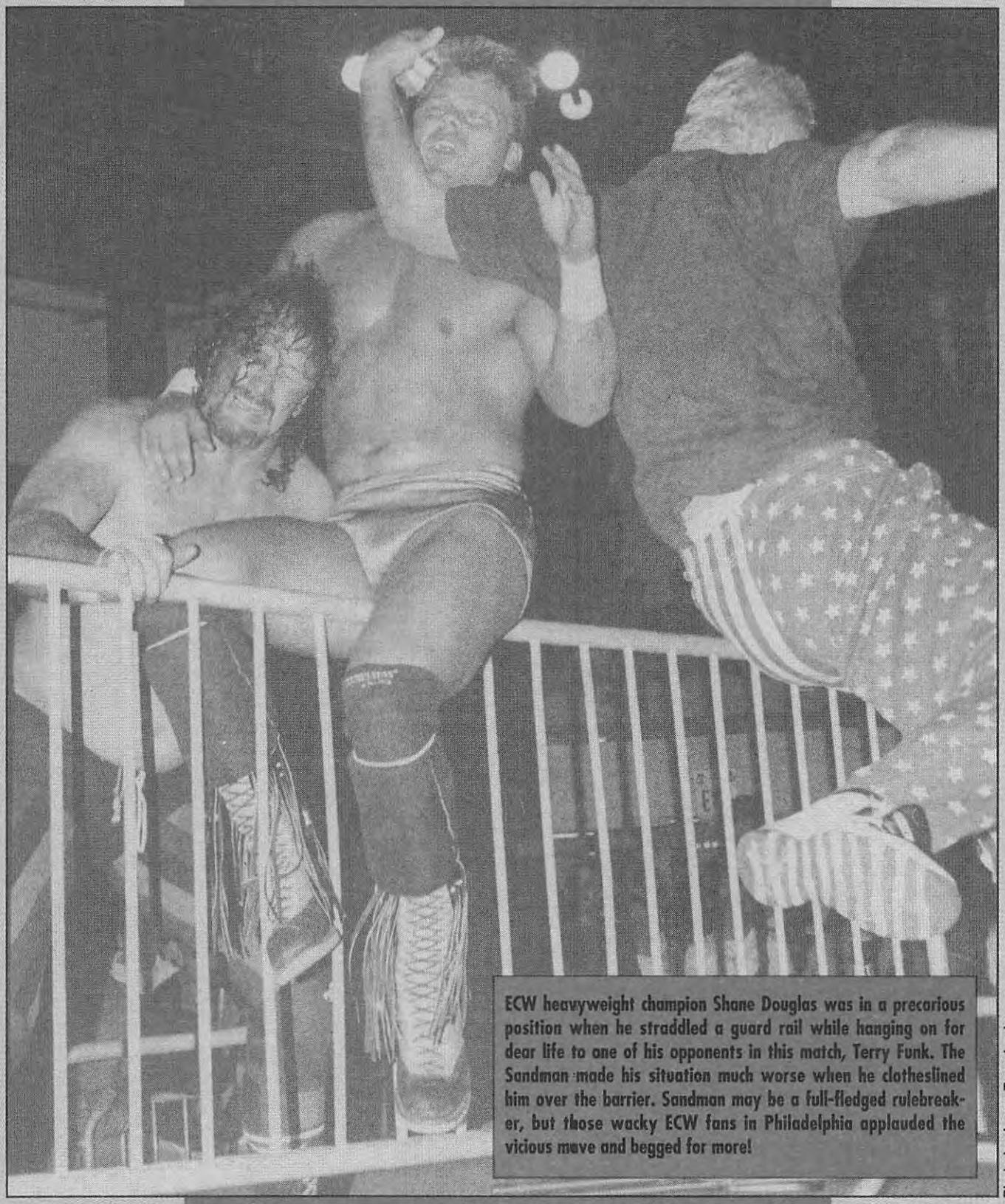
TORONTO, ONTARIO

A year ago, no one could picture Diesel and Razor Ramon forming a tag team; now Shawn Michaels and Jeff Jarrett probably wish they never had, as Diesel and Razor have beaten them several times in the U.S. and north of the border. There is talk that the "Bad Guy" is ready to make a run at the WWF World title, and he doesn't care who he has to beat to get it.

TOKYO, JAPAN

Just when you thought Cactus Jack couldn't get any crazier in the ring, he takes another trip to the Orient. The madman from New Mexico, who loves steel cage, Texas death, and practically every other type of specialty match, teamed with Leatherface against Hiroshi Ono and Shoji Nakamaki in a "barbed-wire-thumbtacks" match. Though Jack's team lost, he said later that he never had so much fun.

HOT SHOT



ECW heavyweight champion Shane Douglas was in a precarious position when he straddled a guard rail while hanging on for dear life to one of his opponents in this match, Terry Funk. The Sandman made his situation much worse when he clotheslined him over the barrier. Sandman may be a full-fledged rulebreaker, but those wacky ECW fans in Philadelphia applauded the vicious move and begged for more!

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

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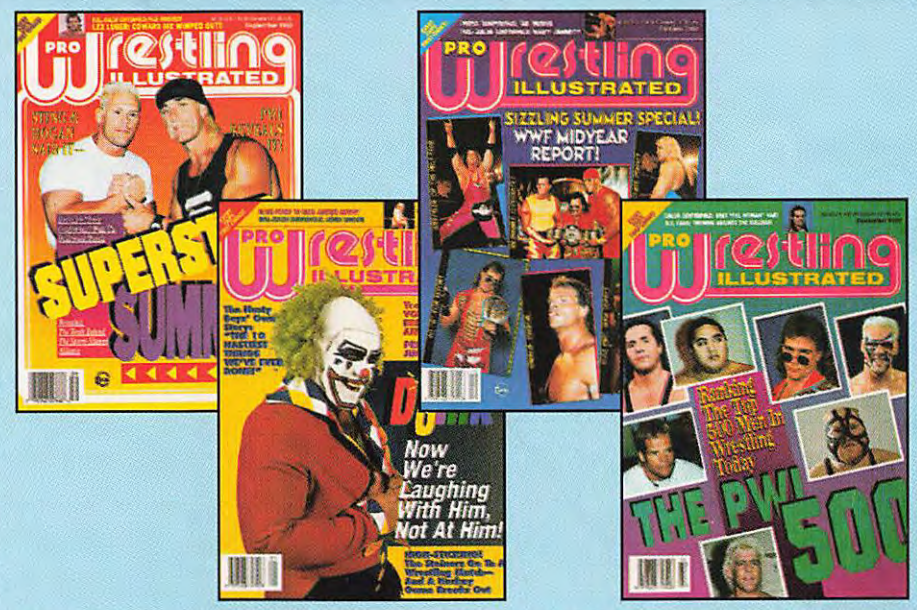

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